FOREIGN
BROADCAST
INFORMATION
SERVICE

Daily Report

East Asia

FBIS-EAS-94-067
Thursday
7 April 1994

Daily Report
East Asia

FBIS-EAS-94-067 CONTENTS *7 April 1994*

NOTICE TO READERS: An * indicates material not disseminated in electronic form.

NORTHEAST ASIA

Japan

Matsunaga Meets U.S. Official on Trade Talks *[KYODO]* ... 1
Tokyo 'Expects' Resumption of U.S. Trade Talks *[KYODO]* ... 1
Residents Near Yokota 'Not To Appeal' Ruling *[KYODO]* ... 1
Canada's Minister MacLaren Comments on Trade ... 2
    Says U.S. Wrong To Seek Targets *[KYODO]* ... 2
    Urges Trade Multilateral Rules *[KYODO]* ... 2
Documents Exchanged on Cambodian Assistance *[KYODO]* ... 2
Reportage on Kazakh President's Visit Continues ... 3
    Hosokawa Meets With President *[KYODO]* ... 3
    Bank Agrees To Extend Loans *[KYODO]* ... 3
    Government To Cover Trade Insurance *[KYODO]* ... 3
    Aid for Dismantling Nuclear Arms *[KYODO]* ... 3
Tokyo, Moscow Agree on Sakhalin-Hokkaido Ferry *[KYODO]* ... 4
Survey: No Effects From Russian Nuclear Dumping *[KYODO]* ... 4
Marubeni Ties Up With PRC Enterprise on Sales *[KYODO]* ... 5
Silk Trade Talks With PRC End With Accord *[KYODO]* ... 5
Farm Cooperatives Oppose Uruguay Round Accord *[KYODO]* ... 5
Minister Fujii Receives OECD Secretary General *[KYODO]* ... 5
Outgoing German Envoy Views Tokyo Relations *[KYODO]* ... 5
Bills To Relax Car Inspection Rules Announced *[KYODO]* ... 6
Study Group Urges New UNSC Permanent Seats *[KYODO]* ... 6
Official Denies Nation's Nuclear Armament *[KYODO]* ... 7
JNP Freezes Discussion of Merger With Sakigake *[KYODO]* ... 7
Committee Considers Moving Diet Outside Tokyo *[KYODO]* ... 8
Nikkeiren Head Urges Diet Passage of Budget *[KYODO]* ... 8
Hosokawa: Reforms To Heal 'Ailing' Economy *[KYODO]* ... 8
Mieno: Economy Ready To Pull Out of Recession *[KYODO]* ... 8
Business Leader Cites Mieno on Economy Prospects *[KYODO]* ... 9
Official: Economy 'Not Yet Set To Recover' *[KYODO]* ... 9
Human Image Synthesizing Technology Developed *[KYODO]* ... 10
Well-Being of Hokkaido's Ainu Population Viewed *[KYODO]* ... 10

North Korea

Yang Hyong-sop Declares SPA Session Open *[Pyongyang Radio]* ... 10
Premier's Address to SPA Session Highlighted *[KCNA]* ... 11
    Radio Reports on Speech *[Pyongyang Radio]* ... 12
Finance Minister Delivers Budget Report *[KCNA]* ... 18
    More on Budget Report at SPA *[KCNA]* ... 18
Norwegian Party Condemns U.S. on Patriot Move *[KCNA]* ... 20
Radio Denounces U.S. Press Reporting on DPRK *[Pyongyang Radio]* ... 20
U.S. Press, Secretary Perry's Remarks Condemned *[KCNA]* ... 21
Overseas Koreans Protest Patriot Deployment *[KCNA]* ... 21
ROK-U.S. War Games on 4, 5 Apr Denounced ... 21
    U.S.-ROK 'Discretion' Urged *[Pyongyang Radio]* ... 21
    Moves Termed Provocative, Reckless *[KCNA]* ... 22
Foreign Political Parties Denounce U.S. Policy *[KCNA]* ... 22
Chongnyon Blames U.S. on Nuclear Issue *[KCNA]* ... 23

Dailies Assail 'Unwarrantable' UNSC Statement *[KCNA]* ... 23
Peace Committee Condemns U.S. 'Maneuverings' *[KCNA]* ... 24
U.S., Japan Called To Reject 'Second Cocom' *[KCNA]* ... 24
SKNDF Report Denounces ROK Nuclear Development *[Radio VNS]* ... 24
ROK 'Suppression' of Trade Unions Condemned *[KCNA]* ... 25
Student Group Urges U.S. To Improve DPRK Ties *[KCNA]* ... 25
ROK Student Security Violation Arrest Decried *[KCNA]* ... 26
Korean Human Rights Defense Group Meets in Tokyo *[KCNA]* ... 26
Koreans in Japan Group Supports DFRF Appeal *[KCNA]* ... 26
Analyst on Japan's 'Desire' for Military Power *[KCNA]* ... 26
Japan Accused of 'Scheme' for Nuclear Power *[KCNA]* ... 27
Cirelco Issues Appeal for Reunification Support *[KCNA]* ... 27
Sihanouk Hosts Kim Il-song at Guesthouse *[KCNA]* ... 27
Kim Il-song Praised for Building Trade Unions *[KCNA]* ... 28
Kim Chong-il Extends Thanks to Working People *[KCNA]* ... 28
Revolutionary Martyrs Cemetery Anniversary Noted *[KCNA]* ... 28
Senegal Independence Day Observed *[KCNA]* ... 29
KCNA Marks 14th Year of Public Health Law ... 29
Cuban News Director Arrives in Pyongyang *[KCNA]* ... 29
Chongnyon Official Says Kim Chong-il 'Healthy' *[Pyongyang Radio]* ... 29
Technical Advances in Spring Plowing Praised *[KCNA]* ... 30

South Korea

Minister Views Nuclear Issue, Perry's Remark *[Seoul Radio]* ... 30
    Says Nuclear Issue 'International' *[YONHAP]* ... 30
    People 'Irate' Over DPRK Remarks *[TONG-A ILBO 7 Apr]* ... 31
'Sharp Increase' Said in Mar Inter-Korean Trade *[YONHAP]* ... 32
Necessity Smuggling From PRC to DPRK Claimed *[TONG-A ILBO 3 Apr]* ... 32
Opening ROK-Japan-DPRK Sea Line Promoted *[MAEIL KYONGJE SINMUN 5 Apr]* ... 33
China, Seoul Agree To Involve DPRK in Project *[MAEIL KYONGJE SINMUN 1 Apr]* ... 33
PRC Reasserts Opposition to Patriot Deployment *[Seoul Radio]* ... 33
State-Run Bank To File Complaint Against BOC *[THE KOREA TIMES 3 Apr]* ... 33
Moscow: 2 Years Needed for Sakhalin Repatriation *[YONHAP]* ... 33
Industrial Complex Planned in Russia's Nakhodka *[YONHAP]* ... 34
Seoul-Khabarovsk Regular Air Service Planned *[YONHAP]* ... 34
Officials Meet Iceland's Foreign Minister *[YONHAP]* ... 34
France Allows Imports of ROK Marine Products *[THE KOREA HERALD 2 Apr]* ... 34
Unification, Security Policy Coordination Council *[Seoul Radio]* ... 35
    Meetings 'More Productive' *[YONHAP]* ... 35
South Chungchong Province Governor Resigns *[YONHAP]* ... 35

SOUTHEAST ASIA

Burma

Minister Leaves for GATT Meeting in Morocco *[Rangoon Radio]* ... 36
Philippines' Foreign Minister Visiting Rangoon ... 36
    Romulo Arrives, Meets Counterpart *[Rangoon Radio]* ... 36
    Romulo Visits Forestry Minister *[Rangoon Radio]* ... 36
Finance Minister, Delegation Return *[Rangoon Radio]* ... 36
KNU Denial of Talks With SLORC Reported *[Radio DVOB]* ... 36
National Convention Plenary Session Reconvenes ... 36
    Report on 5 Apr Session *[Rangoon Radio]* ... 36
    Chairmen Present Analysis Report *[Rangoon Radio]* ... 37

Brunei, Malaysia & Singapore

Malaysia

UK Minister Ends Three-Day Official Visit *[Kuala Lumpur Radio]* ... 37

Vote of G-15 Sought Against Wage-Trade Proposal *[Kuala Lumpur Radio]* ... 37
Thai Helicopter Carrier Purchase No 'Threat' *[Kuala Lumpur Radio]* ... 38
Joint Sea Exercise With Thai Navy Begins 4 Apr *[NEW STRAITS TIMES 5 Apr]* ... 38
Central Bank Governor on Foreign Exchange Loss *[NEW STRAITS TIMES 1 Apr]* ... 38
Minister on Central Bank Losses, Human Rights *[Kuala Lumpur International]* ... 39

Cambodia

General Says KR Attacking From Thai Territory *[AFP]* ... 39
Sihanouk's Arrival Previewed, Health Viewed *[AFP]* ... 40
Paper Discusses Recent National Assembly Session *[REAKSMEI KAMPUCHEA 7 Apr]* ... 41
Hun Sen Bodyguard Said Killed in Kompong Cham *[REAKSMEI KAMPUCHEA 7 Apr]* ... 41
Ranariddh, Hun Sen Urge KR Soldiers To Defect *[Phnom Penh Radio]* ... 42
Ranariddh's Remarks on Pol Pot Fleeing Rejected *[Radio VGNUFC]* ... 42
Fighting North of Pailin on 5 Apr Reported *[Radio VGNUFC]* ... 43
Attacks on Train, Route 5, Railway Line Reported *[Radio VGNUFC]* ... 43

Indonesia

Summit Meeting With Netherlands Continues ... 43
    Lubbers on Bilateral Relations *[Amsterdam HET FINANCIEELE DAGBLAD 6 Apr]* ... 43
    Netherlands Shortens Visit *[Jakarta Radio]* ... 44
    Early Departure Explained *[ANTARA]* ... 44
    Ali Alatas-Kooijmans Talks Noted *[Jakarta Radio]* ... 44
Foreign Banks Agree To Extend Standby Loan *[THE INDONESIA TIMES 30 Mar]* ... 44
Locally Made Aircraft Delivered to Air Force *[REPUBLIKA 26 Mar]* ... 45
New Political Trend, Golkar Generate Debates ... 45
    Suharto Cautions Golkar *[THE JAKARTA POST 29 Mar]* ... 45
    Golkar Urged Not To Oppose Government *[THE JAKARTA POST 30 Mar]* ... 46
    Said Political Force Without Cause *[THE JAKARTA POST 30 Mar]* ... 47

Laos

Keating Urges Help To Defuse Korean 'Tension' *[THE NATION 7 Apr]* ... 47
Australian Prime Minister Ends Visit, Departs *[Vientiane Radio]* ... 48
Travel Restrictions for Foreigners Removed *[THE NATION 6 Apr]* ... 48
Thai-Lao Bridge Poses No 'Threat' to Laos *[THE NATION 7 Apr]* ... 48
Thai Daily Views Lao Political Direction *[PHUCHATKAN 10 Apr]* ... 49

Philippines

Ramos Announces Appointments for Military Commands *[Quezon City Radio-TV]* ... 51
Reports on Killing of Former Guerrilla Leader ... 51
    Killers Identified *[Quezon City Radio-TV]* ... 51
    CPP Claims Killing *[Quezon City Radio]* ... 51

Thailand

U.S. Urged To Face 'New Realities' in Asia *[BANGKOK POST 7 Apr]* ... 51
Australia's Keating Arrives on Official Visit *[Bangkok TV]* ... 52
Interior Minister on Performance, Terrorism *[THE NATION 5 Apr]* ... 52
Measures To 'Thwart' Terrorists' Activities *[THE NATION 6 Apr]* ... 53
Foreign Minister To Visit Rangoon 19 Apr *[THE NATION 7 Apr]* ... 54
Bilateral Commission Planned With Australia *[Melbourne International]* ... 54
Firm, Burmese Government Sign Memorandum *[BANGKOK POST 7 Apr]* ... 55
Chuan Views Charter Amendment, Achievements *[MATICHON 6 Apr]* ... 55

Vietnam

Palestinian Official Ends Visit, Departs *[VNA]* 56
Summit Meeting Held with Sweden in Hanoi 57
    Vo Van Kiet Welcomes Bildt *[Hanoi Radio]* 57
    Paper Hails Visit *[Hanoi Radio]* 57
Defense Minister Receives French Delegation *[VNA]* 57
Cooperation Documents Signed With Bulgaria *[VNA]* 57
Vu Oanh Attends Mobilization Bloc Conference 58
    Addresses Party Meeting *[Hanoi Radio]* 58
    Congress Resolution Presented *[SAIGON GIAI PHONG 15 Mar]* 58

Japan

Matsunaga Meets U.S. Official on Trade Talks

OW0704034694 Tokyo KYODO in English 0324 GMT 7 Apr 94

[Text] Washington, April 6 KYODO—A special Japanese envoy met a top U.S. State Department official Wednesday [6 April] at the start of a private visit apparently designed to seek a breakthrough in stalled bilateral trade negotiations.

Nobuo Matsunaga, a veteran diplomat with extensive ties in Washington, has arranged several rounds of informal talks with senior officials in the Clinton administration during his stay here throughout the week. The appointments include meetings with trade representative Mickey Kantor, Robert Rubin, head of the White House National Economic Council, and presidential National Security Adviser Tony Lake.

Matsunaga began his round of calls after arriving in Washington on Wednesday with a meeting with Undersecretary of State for Economic Affairs Joan Spero. He said after emerging from his visit to Spero that they had only a "general discussion" on bilateral relations.

There was no discussion on the stalled "framework" trade talks between the two countries, he said.

State Department officials also said Matsunaga and Spero had a broad discussion of bilateral ties. Matsunaga "didn't bring any specific message from Japan," a State Department official said.

Matsunaga's trip to Washington came after Japan and the United States set up a meeting between Foreign Minister Tsutomu Hata and Kantor for next week in Morocco.

Tokyo has urged Washington to resume the stalled framework talks, which have become a focal point of escalating tension in bilateral trade ties.

After the trade talks ruptured on February 11 at a summit between Japanese Prime Minister Morihiro Hosokawa and U.S. President Bill Clinton, Washington reinstated the "Super 301" trade law provision which gives the U.S. Government broad authority to impose sanctions on countries accused of practicing unfair trade.

The Japanese Government last week offered a new package of market-opening measures, but Kantor rejected the proposals as of "little substance." Earlier this week, the U.S. Government turned up the heat by putting Japan on top of a list of countries accused of maintaining significant trade barriers against U.S. products.

Tokyo 'Expects' Resumption of U.S. Trade Talks

OW0704111394 Tokyo KYODO in English 1048 GMT 7 Apr 94

[Text] Tokyo, April 7 KYODO—A top Japanese trade official said Thursday [7 April] he expects Foreign Minister Tsutomu Hata to agree with U.S. Trade Representative Mickey Kantor on resumption of stalled bilateral talks on a new trade framework.

Hata is expected to meet Kantor in Marrakech, Morocco, on April 15 as the two visit there for the signing of a new global trade pact known as the Uruguay Round Trade Agreement. The Hata-Kantor meeting is expected to produce "good results" as there are signs that Washington is softening its stance on bilateral economic issues, said the top official at the Ministry of International Trade and Industry.

The official stressed the need to reach agreement by around June 10 when Emperor Akihito visits the United States and suggested that Japan should decide on "drastic" measures to do so.

As for U.S. policy on Japan, the official said the issue of how to deal with the nuclear problem in North Korea seems to be given top priority in U.S. policy on Japan. "It seems that the Clinton administration to date has separated security issues from trade issues in trade negotiations with Japan but recently they appear to have linked security issues with trade issues," the official said.

Residents Near Yokota 'Not To Appeal' Ruling

OW0604011694 Tokyo KYODO in English 0008 GMT 6 Apr 94

[Text] Tokyo, April 6 KYODO—Residents near the U.S. Yokota Air Base decided Tuesday [5 April] night not to appeal to the Supreme Court a ruling that rejected their demands for a ban on night flights but ordered compensation for their suffering. The plaintiffs also decided to ask the government not to appeal, said Ryuzo Fukumoto, leader of the residents.

The government has not expressed whether it will appeal or not. The deadline for appeal expires next Wednesday.

The Tokyo high court last Wednesday ruled that the government pay 710 million yen to 596 residents near the base, 40 kilometers west of central Tokyo, for past suffering from noise. The court, though, rejected the suit's demands for a ban on night flights and compensation for future annoyance.

"To give up an appeal is regrettable... (but) the residents have aged too much," Fukumoto told reporters.

In November last year, Japan and the United States agreed that flights and ground activities at the base between 10 P.M. and 6 A.M. should be restricted to those which are essential to U.S. military operations.

Canada's Minister MacLaren Comments on Trade

Says U.S. Wrong To Seek Targets

OW0704064994 Tokyo KYODO in English 0638 GMT 7 Apr 94

[Text] Tokyo, April 7 KYODO—The United States is wrong in seeking bilateral trade targets with Japan, but that does not mean Japan can keep its markets to itself, Canada's trade minister said Thursday [7 April].

Roy MacLaren, Canadian minister for international trade, said in Tokyo that Canada "regrets" the revival of "Super 301" trade legislation by U.S. President Bill Clinton as well as the U.S. insistence on setting numerical trade targets in bilateral trade with Japan. But he quickly added, "there is broad recognition, including by the Japanese Government, that meaningful action to address Japan's chronic current account surpluses is essential."

Canada, MacLaren said, favors a more open, international Japan and suggested that the country must bring forth "meaningful regulatory and administrative reform," particularly in distribution, transportation, communications and financial services.

Speaking to Japanese and Canadian executives, MacLaren emphasized that while he does not support the U.S. approach to negotiations with Japan, "Japan remains limited by regulations, many of which appear to us as quite unnecessary."

Meeting reporters after his address, MacLaren said both Prime Minister Morihiro Hosokawa and Foreign Minister Tsutomu Hata outlined Japan's commitment to deregulation in meetings with him. Detailed plans were not presented, but an outline for changes over the next five years were shown him, he said.

At later meetings with International Trade and Industry Minister Hiroshi Kumagai and Construction Minister Kozo Igarashi, MacLaren said he would press for significant action in reducing regulatory barriers to the expansion of Canadian exports of building products, other materials, and value-added goods to Japan.

Touching on the market access measures Japan released last week, the minister said Canada "welcomes them." But, he added, "they hardly meet what we regard as a desirable goal—they don't go very far—but are a step."

He also stressed that Canada supports decentralization in Japan and pointed to his visit to the southernmost main island of Kyushu earlier this week as underlining the benefits small and medium Canadian companies can obtain if they don't have to do business "through Tokyo's great trading companies." At the regional level, he suggested, business-to-business ventures and agreements "come quickly."

MacLaren will host a roundtable on Japan-Canada business and economic relations Friday and meet with several business leaders before departing Saturday for Morocco where he will represent Canada at the signing of the Uruguay Round multilateral trade agreement.

Urges Trade Multilateral Rules

OW0704054194 Tokyo KYODO in English 0531 GMT 7 Apr 94

[Text] Tokyo, April 7 KYODO—Canada's Trade Minister Thursday [7 April] criticized U.S. calls to introduce "numerical targets" to measure foreign access to Japanese markets, Foreign Ministry officials said Thursday. Canadian Minister for International Trade Roy MacLaren voiced the concern in separate meetings with Prime Minister Morihiro Hosokawa and Foreign Minister Tsutomu Hata, the officials said.

MacLaren told Hosokawa and Hata that Canada considers it important to promote trade under multilateral rules, they said.

He expressed appreciation for Hata's remarks that Japan intends to report the results of bilateral discussions to other nations, and added that Canada opposes U.S. calls on Japan for numerical targets or to introduce managed trade because such moves affect third parties, they said. Canada has repeatedly told Washington of its opposition, MacLaren was quoted as saying.

Hata, during an hour-long meeting with MacLaren, said he has told U.S. Trade Representative Mickey Kantor that agreements between the United States and Japan should not affect other nations, so Japan disagrees with numerical targets, the officials said.

He also referred to the successful Uruguay Round of multilateral trade talks and said managed trade should be avoided.

MacLaren voiced expectations that Japan continue to promote deregulation, they said, and Hosokawa and Hata told MacLaren that Japan is trying to do so.

The trade minister, who arrived in Tokyo on Wednesday after visiting Fukuoka in western Japan, told the Japanese leaders that Canada wants to strengthen ties not only with the Tokyo area but also with local economies, they said.

MacLaren invited Hosokawa and Hata to visit Canada, they said.

MacLaren has been in Japan since Tuesday on the last leg of a three-nation Asian tour that also took him to China and South Korea. He is scheduled to leave Japan on Saturday.

Documents Exchanged on Cambodian Assistance

OW0704035694 Tokyo KYODO in English 0310 GMT 7 Apr 94

[Text] Tokyo, April 7 KYODO—Japan will grant up to 500 million yen in assistance to Cambodia to help it increase food production, the Foreign Ministry said Thursday [7 April]. Japanese Ambassador to Cambodia Yukio Imagawa and Cambodia's Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Prince Norodom Sirivut exchanged documents on the agreement in Phnom Penh, the ministry said.

The aid will be used to purchase fertilizers and agricultural machinery, it said. Food production in Cambodia is very slow because its economy was destroyed by years of war and because of lack of fertilizers and machinery, the ministry said.

The latest aid brings the total amount of Japanese grant-in-aid to Cambodia in fiscal 1993 to about 8.4 billion yen, it said.

Reportage on Kazakh President's Visit Continues

Hosokawa Meets With President

OW0704130594 Tokyo KYODO in English 1008 GMT 7 Apr 94

[Text] Tokyo, April 7 KYODO—Prime Minister Morihiro Hosokawa pledged on Thursday [7 April] to lend Kazakhstan up to 12.98 billion yen to help it improve railroad transportation and tackle pollution from thermal power stations, Foreign Ministry officials said. Hosokawa made the pledge in a meeting with Kazakhstan President Nursultan Nazarbayev, the officials said.

Japan will extend the loan to support the central Asian nation's economic reform efforts and to help its environmental preservation measures, they said.

Of the total, 7.23 billion yen will be set aside for a project to improve railroad transportation. The project aims at supplying equipment necessary to expand Druzhba station at the border with China which serves as the base for material transportation, and to repair and improve the track.

Another 5.74 billion yen will be for a project to tackle air pollution from the Ekibastuz thermal power station in northern Kazakhstan, the officials said.

The project aims at installing electric dust collectors and denitrification and desulfurization equipment at the power station. Despite the use of coal for thermal power generation, sufficient environmental preservation measures have not been taken in Kazakhstan since it became independent with the breakup of the Soviet Union, they said.

Bank Agrees To Extend Loans

OW0704095094 Tokyo KYODO in English 0809 GMT 7 Apr 94

[Text] Tokyo, April 7 KYODO—The Export-Import Bank of Japan signed Thursday [6 April] to extend two untied loans worth 28.5 billion yen to Kazakhstan, bank officials said Thursday [7 April].

Of the total, a 18.8 billion yen loan will be made with an arrangement of the International Monetary Fund. The remaining 9.7 billion yen loan will be cofinanced with the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development in its rehabilitation loan program.

These loans are the bank's first financial assistance to central Asian countries. The loans are also under the "Funds for Development Initiative" launched by the Japanese Government in June, 1993.

Government To Cover Trade Insurance

OW0704132994 Tokyo KYODO in English 1135 GMT 7 Apr 94

[Text] Tokyo, April 7 KYODO—The Japanese Government pledged Thursday [7 April] to immediately begin covering trade insurance for Kazakhstan. International Trade and Industry Minister Hiroshi Kumagai made the pledge during his meeting with Syzdyk Abishev, Kazakhstan's deputy premier in charge of economic affairs, who is accompanying President Nursultan Nazarbayev on a four-day visit to Japan since Wednesday.

Kazakhstan will become the first country among the five former Soviet republics in Central Asia to receive Japan's trade insurance coverage. As a first step, Japan will apply the insurance to two facility expansion projects for the Karaganda steel mill in line with a credit line of 300 million dollars established last year, a MITI official told a press conference.

Kumagai also told Abishev that Japan is prepared to accept trade insurance for Kazakhstan's new oil pipeline project if certain conditions on loan repayments are met, the official said.

Japan also decided to give technological assistance to Kazakhstan, including cooperation in a copper exploration project, while it will assist restructuring efforts at the Karaganda steel mill, the MITI official said.

Abishev asked Japanese companies to redouble their investments in Kazakhstan, noting that only three Japanese firms are now involved in joint ventures with Kazakh companies.

Kumagai said Japanese firms will probably respond favorably if investment conditions in the country improve.

Aid for Dismantling Nuclear Arms

OW0704145294 Tokyo KYODO in English 1433 GMT 7 Apr 94

[Text] Tokyo, April 7 KYODO—Prime Minister Morihiro Hosokawa said Thursday [7 April] Japan will allocate 11 million dollars to Kazakhstan to help dismantle its nuclear weapons, Foreign Ministry officials said. Hosokawa made the announcement in a meeting with

Kazakhstan President Nursultan Nazarbayev, who arrived in Japan on Wednesday for a four-day visit.

The amount is part of a total of 100 million dollars Japan pledged last year to help four former Soviet republics—Russia, Ukraine, Belarus and Kazakhstan—dismantle their nuclear weapons. The officials said detailed use of the 11 million dollars will be decided in discussions between the two sides at a committee on cooperation for the destruction of nuclear weapons.

Hosokawa praised Kazakhstan's efforts to denuclearize, democratize and shift toward a market-oriented economy, they said. Kazakhstan joined the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty (NPT) as a nonnuclear weapon state last November.

Nazarbayev, 53, asked for Japanese cooperation in helping his country tackle environmental pollution at the Semipalatinsk nuclear testing site and in the Aral Sea, the officials said. Specifically, he requested cooperation in providing medical equipment for hospitals treating people exposed to radioactivity near Semipalatinsk.

Hosokawa said Japan will seriously consider cooperation with the hospitals, which the ministry officials said is expected to be covered by the 11 million dollars.

An estimated 233 million tons of radioactive substances are believed to be left in Kazakhstan. As for environmental problems in the Aral Sea, Hosokawa said the problem should be solved internationally but added Japan would study what it can do, the officials said.

Also during the 30-minute meeting, followed by an hourlong dinner, Nazarbayev, 53, said he supports Japan's bid to become a permanent member of the U.N. Security Council.

A joint statement signed by the two leaders prior to the meeting said Kazakhstan "expressed the hope" that Japan would become a permanent member of the Security Council and "fulfill its relevant responsibilities." Hosokawa told Nazarbayev Japan intends to fulfill its responsibilities within its capabilities, the officials said.

On the international front, the Kazakhstan president proposed holding a conference covering the whole of Asia to build trust. Hosokawa agreed on the importance of creating trust in Asia but expressed reluctance to set up a forum covering the whole region such as the conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe (CSCE).

Nazarbayev asked Japan to offer its manufacturing technology to Central Asia and suggested setting up a committee between Japan and Kazakhstan to study such a possibility. Hosokawa suggested the two sides utilize the existing bilateral economic committee.

Nazarbayev also offered a list of 1,394 Japanese prisoners of war detained in Siberia who died in Kazakhstan, the officials said.

On Friday, Nazarbayev is to meet Emperor Akihito and Empress Michiko and give a press conference later in the day.

Tokyo, Moscow Agree on Sakhalin-Hokkaido Ferry

OW0604122194 Tokyo KYODO in English 1024 GMT 6 Apr 94

[Text] Tokyo, April 6 KYODO—Japanese and Russian shipping companies have agreed to open a ferry route between Sakhalin and two Japanese port cities in Hokkaido—Otaru and Wakkanai—in April 1995, a Transport Ministry official said Wednesday [6 April]. The agreement, which came after two days of talks ended in Yuzhno-Sakhalinsk Wednesday, also calls for serving the new ferry route on a trial basis in July, the official said.

The shipping talks were held under a February 1991 agreement between the Japanese and then Soviet governments.

The two sides are slated to meet again between late May and early June in Yuzhno-Sakhalinsk to negotiate details of the trial service, including how many and how long.

Survey: No Effects From Russian Nuclear Dumping

OW0604090594 Tokyo KYODO in English 0847 GMT 06 Apr 94

[Text] Tokyo, April 6 KYODO—A joint survey of the Sea of Japan by Japan, South Korea and Russia found no particular effects of Russia's radioactive waste dumping, Foreign Ministry officials said Wednesday [6 April]. The survey team, consisting of experts from the three nations and from the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), found no particular abnormalities in seawater and seabed samples compared with past data, the officials said.

Operating from a Russian-registered oceanographic survey ship, the Okean, the team began a study of the seawater and seabed of the Sea of Japan on March 18 following the Russian dumping of liquid nuclear waste in October. The team took water samples from both the ocean surface and deep within the sea at seven survey spots southeast of Vladivostok, and the survey ended Wednesday.

Official results of the survey will be announced after detailed analysis is complete, the officials said.

The Russian Navy dumped 900 tons of liquid nuclear waste in the Sea of Japan in October 1993. A planned second dumping was canceled following protests from Japan and South Korea.

Marubeni Ties Up With PRC Enterprise on Sales

OW0704101194 Tokyo KYODO in English 0804 GMT 7 Apr 94

[Text] Tokyo, April 7 KYODO—Japanese trading firm Marubeni Corp. said Thursday [7 April] it has tied up with a Chinese enterprise to sell personal computers and other electronics equipment in China.

Under the agreement, Marubeni and China's Legend computer group will jointly develop, produce, market and service personal computers, communications equipment and medical analysis systems, Marubeni said. The two companies initially will sell computer hardware and software made by Apple Computer Inc. of the United States, beginning this autumn, it said.

The company said the burgeoning Chinese personal computer market, which saw sales of 300,000 units last year, is likely to experience an annual growth of more than 20 percent through 2000.

Legend, backed by the Chinese Academy of Sciences, annually sells 20 billion yen worth of personal computers, it said.

International Business Machines Corp. (IBM) and other U.S. computer makers are already competing for a larger share of the Chinese market.

Silk Trade Talks With PRC End With Accord

OW0704131594 Tokyo KYODO in English 1240 GMT 7 Apr 94

[Text] Tokyo, April 7 KYODO—Japan agreed Thursday [7 April] to import 7.15 million square meters of silk goods from China in fiscal 1994, the Trade Ministry said. The sum compares with 7.2 million square meters in the previous year, the Ministry of International Trade and Industry (MITI) said, summing up two days of silk trade talks in Tokyo between Japan and China.

The accord also calls for Japan to import 10,500 bales of Chinese-made silk thread for the year which started April 1, down from 11,500 bales in fiscal 1993.

Raw silk shipments to Japan in the current year will total 19,000 bales, up from 13,500 bales, MITI said. One bale weighs 60 kilograms.

Farm Cooperatives Oppose Uruguay Round Accord

OW0604122294 Tokyo KYODO in English 1148 GMT 6 Apr 94

[Text] Tokyo, April 6 KYODO—The Central Union of Agricultural Cooperatives registered its opposition Wednesday [6 April] to an accord to be signed by Japan that will bring the seven-year-long Uruguay Round of world trade talks to a conclusion, officials of the union said. They said Hakaru Toyoda, president of the union, met with Chief Cabinet Secretary Masayoshi Takemura and Eijiro Hata, minister of the agriculture, forestry and fisheries.

The union said it opposes the accord because it will lead to liberalization of Japan's markets for farm produce, the officials said. Toyoda urged the government to, instead, implement policies that will create a stable working environment for farmers and adopt farm trade laws that secure the survival of Japan's agricultural industry.

The Uruguay Round accord, which comprises a broad range of trading rules agreed on at talks sponsored by the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade, will be signed in Marrakech, Morocco at a ministerial meeting to be held April 12-15.

Minister Fujii Receives OECD Secretary General

OW0504124794 Tokyo KYODO in English 1232 GMT 5 Apr 94

[Text] Tokyo, April 5 KYODO—Finance Minister Hirohisa Fujii told OECD leader Jean-Claude Paye Tuesday [5 April] the Japanese Government is considering full-scale tax cuts in years beyond fiscal 1995, officials said. The officials said Fujii and Paye, secretary general of the Paris-based Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development, exchanged views on the economic situation.

The government of Prime Minister Morihiro Hosokawa has been under pressure to implement tax cuts on a continuing basis to stimulate domestic demand, thereby increasing market potential for imports.

Fujii told Paye the government is considering full-scale tax cuts in fiscal 1995 and onward, the officials said. Legislation for a 20 percent reduction in income and residential taxes for this year has already cleared the Diet.

Fujii was quoted as telling Paye the government considers it necessary to raise the 3.0 percent consumption tax rate to help ease the tax burden on middle-class wage earners, the officials said. Paye, on a regular visit to Japan for consultations with Japanese leaders, expressed hope that tax cuts will help stimulate consumer spending in Japan and expand domestic demand, they said.

Outgoing German Envoy Views Tokyo Relations

OW0704090894 Tokyo KYODO in English 0848 GMT 7 Apr 94

[Text] Tokyo, April 7 KYODO—Outgoing German Ambassador to Japan Wilhelm Haas said Thursday [7 April] that German-Japanese relations have "widened and deepened" in recent years although Bonn sometimes devoted "probably too much" political energy to German unification and European problems. Speaking to reporters at the Japan National Press Club, Haas said Germany has intensified its relations with East and

Southeast Asia, adding Bonn's new Asia policy, adopted in October, "singles out Japan as major partner in the region."

A cooperation council for high technology proposed during German Chancellor Helmut Kohl's visit to Japan in February 1993 will likely be formally established when Prime Minister Morihiro Hosokawa visits Germany as part of a European tour in May, he said. Through the council, representatives of both governments and the high-tech industries of both countries and research and development personnel will meet on a regular basis to exchange views on the latest technological developments and sound out possible joint projects.

Haas, who will leave his Tokyo post on April 29 after more than three and a half years in Japan, said Bonn "very warmly welcomed" the priorities set by the Hosokawa cabinet, citing political reform, decentralization and deregulation. However, he indicated that political developments since August, when Hosokawa's coalition government took power ending almost four decades of Liberal Democratic Party rule, have put a damper on Bonn's initial enthusiasm.

"We had high, possibly too high expectations and may have to prepare ourselves for some disappointment," Haas said. "You sell twice as much as you buy from us," said Haas, urging more Japanese efforts to adjust the bilateral trade imbalance which reached 930.44 billion yen in Japan's favor in 1993.

"The Germans feel that Japan can and should be more open to its competitors and to international division of labor," the ambassador said, adding that Germany hopes to solve trade problems in a multilateral context.

Turning to cultural relations, Haas acknowledged that Germany should correct another imbalance—the number of Japanese studying in Germany is seven to eight times higher than the number of Germans studying in Japan, he said. Haas, who is fluent in Japanese, said, however, "it is simply not true" that speaking the partner country's language is a prerequisite for mutual understanding.

With the increasing global interdependence English will become the mode of communication in German-Japan relations anyway, he said. "This is not a bad development," Haas said, adding that bilateral relations need to be taken somewhat "out of the hands of specialists."

Son of a career diplomat, Haas spent almost his entire childhood in Japan and China. In the 1960s he served as a junior officer under his father, who was then the German ambassador to Japan. Bonn has not decided yet who will succeed Haas.

Bills To Relax Car Inspection Rules Announced

OW0704130394 Tokyo KYODO in English 1207 GMT 7 Apr 94

[Text] Tokyo, April 7 KYODO—The Transport Ministry on Thursday [7 April] announced bills to relax car inspection regulations as part of government deregulation efforts. The deregulation involves the elimination of rules requiring a car inspection once every six months as well as a reduction in items required for annual and biennial car inspections.

The ministry plans to implement the latest measures next year, ministry officials said.

The ministry expects the scrapping of the six-month inspection requirements to save car owners an average 15,000 yen and the reduction in items for annual and biennial inspections to save them 4,000 yen and 8,000 yen, respectively, they said.

Study Group Urges New UNSC Permanent Seats

OW0704092294 Tokyo KYODO in English 0710 GMT 7 Apr 94

[Text] New York, April 7 KYODO—Both Japan and Germany should be given permanent seats on the U.N. Security Council, a panel of some 40 Japanese and U.S. academics, diplomats and U.N. executives said Wednesday [6 April]. This would make up for an increasingly serious shortage of U.N. resources, such as peacemaking personnel, financial resources, and other means needed to keep or enforce peace in conflict-torn areas, it said in a 16-page report.

The panel, formed by the United Nations Association of the United States (UNA-USA) and the Asia-Pacific Association of Japan (APA), said U.N. authorization of military force should be a last resort and relatively rare, but once decided should be carried out efficiently, effectively and professionally. "To accomplish this, however, will entail major improvements in command and control procedures, in training, in the preparatory earmarking of troops...and supplies, and in the provision of financial support," it said.

Pointing to the need for a further use of U.N. peacekeeping activities, it urged that member states "contribute to the strengthening of that capability."

To resolve the problem of financial constraints on the U.N. peacemaking budget, it urged all member states to "explore the possibility of paying the U.N. peacekeeping assessments from their defense budgets."

The panel also recommended Japan and the U.S. "maintain close cooperation on all U.N.-related matters, particularly those involving the Security Council." To this end, it recommended that "American and Japanese representatives meet regularly in New York and consult on outstanding U.N. issues."

The report acknowledged, however, the U.N. difficulty, due to its financial and personnel limitations, in living up to the expectations from the international community to ensure peace.

It expressed understanding of arguments by some U.S. intellectuals that the U.S. forces should keep its independence of command from U.N. peacekeeping operations in enforcing peace. "We fully acknowledge that not all of the suspicion and resistance, if not outright opposition, to U.N.-led multilateralism derives from selfishness and shortsightedness," the report said.

"There are genuine dilemmas that we must face up to and resolve," it said, adding that it hopes the report's recommendations will "provide some impetus for overcoming these dilemmas."

The report, titled, "Addressing the New Challenge, Regional Crisis Management and the United Nations" and based on two and a half years of research, was drafted under the co-chairmanship of Donald McHenry, former U.S. ambassador to the U.N., and Ryukichi Imai, former Japanese ambassador to the U.N. Geneva Disarmament Conference.

The UNA-USA urged the U.S. State Department to implement its recommendations to bolster the capability of the U.N. to restore peace in various conflict-marred regions at a time when the U.S. is increasingly loath to police such trouble spots.

The institution is a private research group dedicated to strengthening the U.N. and enhancing U.S. participation in it. The APA is a quasigovernmental research group affiliated with the Japanese Foreign Ministry.

Official Denies Nation's Nuclear Armament

OW0704115494 Tokyo KYODO in English 1140 GMT 7 Apr 94

[Text] Tokyo, April 7 KYODO—A senior Foreign Ministry official Thursday denied suspicion by some countries that Japan may arm with nuclear weapons now that it has launched the new plutonium-fueled fast breeder reactor "Monju," which produces more plutonium than it uses.

"Japan has properly accepted (international) nuclear inspections," said the official on the condition of anonymity. "Nuclear armament will not benefit Japan...I can understand some countries think Japan will arm with nuclear weapons if North Korea does so."

The official said Japan must clear the suspicion on such occasions as summit meetings and foreign ministerial meetings with every country.

Earlier the same day, North Korea accused Japan of promoting a plan to become a nuclear power, according to the official KOREAN CENTRAL NEWS AGENCY (KCNA). "The commissioning of Monju fully reveals Japan's undisguised scheme to become a nuclear power by securing a large quantity of plutonium for itself and manufacturing nuclear weapons any moment," the KCNA said.

Monju reached criticality Tuesday morning in Tsuruga, Fukui Prefecture, on the Sea of Japan coast. Criticality is the point at which the reaction in the reactor's fissionable material is sufficient to sustain a chain reaction.

Some environmentalists have criticized the operation of Monju partly because plutonium can be used to produce nuclear weapons.

JNP Freezes Discussion of Merger With Sakigake

OW0704043594 Tokyo KYODO in English 0405 GMT 7 Apr 94

[Text] Tokyo, April 7 KYODO—The Japan New Party (JNP) led by Prime Minister Morihiro Hosokawa said Thursday [7 April] it is suspending discussions on a proposed merger with new party Sakigake, [Harbinger] another member of the seven-party ruling coalition. The JNP reached the decision at a meeting of its Diet members earlier in the day.

Many members voiced opposition to the party leadership's plan to suspend the proposed merger with Sakigake, which is led by Chief Cabinet Secretary Masayoshi Takemura, party officials said.

Hosokawa said Monday the proposed merger between the JNP and Sakigake is "not a commitment."

The JNP, however, decided at Thursday's meeting to maintain a loose parliamentary group with Sakigake in the House of Representatives.

Hosokawa and Takemura floated the idea of a merger last summer while they were campaigning in the July 18 general election for the House of Representatives.

The close ties of the two parties became a driving force in creating the coalition government last August by uniting with five other parties to oust the Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) from its 38-year-old grip on power. But the relationship between Hosokawa and Takemura has soured, making remote the likelihood of a merger of the two parties, political sources said.

The two leaders have differed over handling of tax system reform. Moreover, in moves to form new political forces among the ruling parties, it appears likely that Hosokawa and Takemura will join rival groups, according to the sources.

The coalition government may separate into two groups—one formed by the JNP, Komeito and Shinseito, and the other mainly by Sakigake and the Social Democratic Party [of Japan], they said.

Takemura, meanwhile, indicated Thursday that his party may scrap the merger plan with the JNP if the soured relations between the two parties continue. In a meeting with reporters, Takemura expressed dissatisfaction with the JNP's attitude toward the idea, saying "if the JNP has changed its stance, I want (the party) to respond a bit more fairly."

Takemura also said Sakigake will go back to the starting point to reconsider the matter.

Committee Considers Moving Diet Outside Tokyo

OW0604130894 Tokyo KYODO in English 1249 GMT 6 Apr 94

[Text] Tokyo, April 6 KYODO—An advisory committee has completed the outline of a report on transferring the Diet and other government facilities outside congested Tokyo, committee officials said Wednesday [6 April].

The outline, set for release in June, suggested that such a transfer would enable Japan to "realize a land structure suitable for the 21st century." The issue of transferring the Diet outside the capital has been debated for years.

The panel said it would also serve to facilitate political and administrative reforms, including deregulation and decentralization of power.

The outline will serve as the basis for an intermediate report to be issued in June on the subject of the "significance and effect" of making such a transfer. Afterwards, the committee will come up with a master plan.

At the end of the month, a separate advisory panel will begin considering what conditions should be met before considering new sites for the Diet. Contenders include such cities as Sendai in northern Japan.

Nikkeiren Head Urges Diet Passage of Budget

OW0604093594 Tokyo KYODO in English 0758 GMT 6 Apr 94

[Text] Tokyo, April 6 KYODO—An influential business leader appealed to Prime Minister Morihiro Hosokawa Wednesday [6 April] to give top priority to early passage by the Diet of the 1994 fiscal budget.

Takeshi Nagano, chairman of the Japan Federation of Employers' Associations (Nikkeiren), told a news conference Hosokawa should take tough action to get the bill through the Diet. His remark indicated he considers it unavoidable for the ruling coalition government to vote on the bill, even in the absence of opposition parties, observers said.

Parliamentary debate on the budget has been stalled over demands by the opposition Liberal Democratic Party that Hosokawa disclose details of a 100 million yen loan he accepted from the scandal-tainted trucking firm Sagawa Kyubin Co. and purchases of shares in Nippon Telegraph and Telephone Corp. made by the premier in the name of his late father-in-law.

Nagano said the budget committee should resume debate on the budget quickly and transfer discussions on the scandal to other panels.

Hosokawa: Reforms To Heal 'Ailing' Economy

OW0504232694 Tokyo KYODO in English 2304 GMT 5 Apr 94

[Text] Washington, April 5 KYODO—Prime Minister Morihiro Hosokawa assured Americans on Tuesday [5 April] that economic reform he is pushing in Japan will heal the ailing Japanese economy and turn it once again into a "powerful engine" for global growth.

Hosokawa, writing in the editorial page of the newspaper USA TODAY, said the fresh market-opening measures unveiled by Japan last week were one result of his reform efforts, and he urged Americans to take advantage of new business opportunities in Japan. "I hope that foreign firms will, with enthusiasm, take advantage of the opportunities provided by the measures, thereby leading to an increase in imports to Japan from the United States and elsewhere," Hosokawa said.

A Japanese Embassy spokesman said Hosokawa contributed the article in response to a request from the newspaper to present the Japanese case on growing trade disputes between the two countries.

The Japanese premier, who was swept to office last August as a champion of change, began his article by promising the American public that he is determined to press on with political and economic reforms in Japan. "Economic reform is particularly important in order to pull Japan out of the current recession and once again make it a powerful engine for the world economy," Hosokawa said.

Hosokawa gave an outline of the market-opening measures his government adopted last Tuesday, arguing that tapping the Japanese market would help create jobs in the U.S.

He said, "Japan is America's largest export market after Canada, and Japanese investment is greatly contributing to the creation of American jobs and to the enhancement of production in the U.S. industry."

Mieno: Economy Ready To Pull Out of Recession

OW0604065894 Tokyo KYODO in English 0645 GMT 6 Apr 94

[Text] Tokyo, April 6 KYODO—The Japanese economy may pull out of its prolonged three-year recession if persistent concerns over the yen's rise and other fresh downward pressures on the economy prove unfounded, Bank of Japan [BOJ] Governor Yasushi Mieno said Wednesday [6 April].

"The economy is brighter and close to hitting bottom," the BOJ chief told a news conference after wrapping up a three-day quarterly meeting of the central bank's managers of 33 domestic branches and its three overseas representatives. His comments, reflecting increased optimism by the regional branch managers and overseas representatives, indicated a slight change from recent remarks that more time is needed to see if emerging bright spots in consumption and production will be sustainable enough to lift the economy.

Mieno was still cautious about a recovery, though, citing potential downward factors such as the yen's appreciation amid the stalled Japan-U.S. trade talks.

The BOJ chief said his view on the economic situation has "delicately" changed, but reiterated that he will continue to "carefully watch" recent improvements led by recovering personal consumption and slightly increasing exports.

Summing up the quarterly meeting of branch managers, Mieno said the managers confirmed evidence of improved corporate sentiment. Most of the branch managers attending the meeting reported that the economy is showing signs of bottoming out.

Mieno said their assessment of the economy "turned brighter than at the time of the previous meeting," noting that anticipation of recovery is spreading among corporate managers.

Company leaders, who until recently had been discussing the timing of the recovery, are now talking about its tempo rather than its timing, he added.

"The chances are slim for the economy to fall back again," Mieno said, brushing aside the possibility of a repeat of the setback which occurred a year ago. He noted four "stronger positive factors" which have come to the surface over the past year.

"Inventory adjustments and corporate restructuring programs have progressed steadily, and recent macroeconomic measures are buoying the economy," he said.

"Exports are recovering due to brighter overseas economies led by the United States, and improvements in domestic economic activities are spreading," he added.

But Mieno said he wants to carefully monitor to what extent the book closing by companies for the fiscal year ended March 31 "inflated" economic indicators.

The BOJ chief also said three persistent factors should be carefully watched—the yen's appreciation, ongoing labor cutbacks and continuing balance-sheet adjustments by financial institutions, noting these may drag the economy down again.

With Japan's current account surplus remaining at a high level, trade friction with other nations prevails, and a trend toward a higher yen is dominating foreign exchange trading, Mieno said. The recent yen-dollar exchange rate of around 104 yen to the U.S. dollar is "severe for exporters," but the latest round of the yen's appreciation is milder than last year's, Mieno said.

He noted that the dollar fell from 125 yen to near 100 yen last year, while its fall in the current round is only from 110 yen late last year to Wednesday's 104 yen level.

Asked about the central bank's stance on the yen's appreciation in connection with the stalled trade talks with the United States, Mieno repeated that he desires to see stable exchange rates reflecting economic fundamentals.

An agreement reached among finance ministers and central bankers of Group of Seven major industrial nations on their cooperation to stem wild rate fluctuations is alive, Mieno added, suggesting his intention to call for reconfirmation of the accord at a G-7 meeting slated in Washington later this month.

Considering the recent upward trend in long-term interest rates led by the United States, Mieno said they are unlikely to continue rising. He said it is natural for market rates to move up and down in the near term, but long-term rates will settle down during the process of adjusting to the state of the economy.

Mieno praised the positive stance taken by financial insitutions to liquidate bad loans.

Business Leader Cites Mieno on Economy Prospects

OW0604101294 Tokyo KYODO in English 0936 GMT 6 Apr 94

[Text] Tokyo, April 6 KYODO—Bank of Japan Governor Yasushi Mieno told business leaders Wednesday [6 April] he sees bright signs in corporate sentiment and such is reflected in the real economy, a business leader said.

Mieno pointed to a slight increase in exports against the backdrop of a strong U.S. economy and progress in reducing corporate inventories and corporate restructuring, according to Kenji Kawakatsu, vice chairman of the Federation of Economic Organizations (Keidanren). Kawakatsu cited Mieno as saying that was clearly not the picture a year ago.

But Mieno reportedly added he will continue to watch those bright signs to determine whether they will lead to a full-fledged economic recovery.

Mieno also said the strength of the yen in currency markets continues to put pressure on the economy and stressed the importance of private business vigor to ensure economic recovery, according to Kawakatsu.

Official: Economy 'Not Yet Set To Recover'

CW0704094894 Tokyo KYODO in English 0922 GMT 7 Apr 94

[Text] Tokyo, April 7 KYODO—Japan's economy is not yet set to recover but a further fall is unlikely, Vice Finance Minister Jiro Saito said Thursday [7 April]. "As we have been saying, the economy is unlikely to deteriorate further," Saito told a scheduled news conference, referring to remarks Wednesday by Bank of Japan Governor Yasushi Mieno.

The BOJ chief virtually declared an end to the three-year recession by saying the economy is showing signs of hitting bottom.

But Saito remained cautious about projecting recovery as did Finance Minister Hirohisa Fujii when he met reporters after Mieno. "There may be some differences in nuances, but they (Mieno's comments) are basically the same as the latest (monthly) economic report by the Economic Planning Agency," Saito said.

"Mieno also did not completely mention a recovery," Saito said. Under these circumstances, Saito stressed the government must steadily implement the record 15.25 trillion yen stimulus package and enact the fiscal 1994 budget as early as possible to put the economy on a "full-fledged recovery track."

Considering the tax issue, Saito welcomed the recent direction indicated by the Social Democratic Party (SDP) to accepting a consumption tax hike. But he declined to comment further on ongoing discussions among the ruling coalition parties which are to decide on a full-scale tax reform by the end of the year.

Human Image Synthesizing Technology Developed

OW0704131694 Tokyo KYODO in English 1215 GMT 7 Apr 94

[Text] Osaka, April 7 KYODO—Matsushita Electric Industrial Co. has developed new model-based three-dimensional human image synthesizing technology, the company said Thursday [7 April].

A senior company researcher said if a programmer inputs general data on the character of a model—for instance, a model with weak characteristics—into a workstation, the computer automatically outputs facial expressions and motions suited to the character on the basis of that data. He said the new technology will probably be put to practical use in the field of game software in a few years, and eventually in the field of motion pictures and broadcasting.

Well-Being of Hokkaido's Ainu Population Viewed

OW0504113294 Tokyo KYODO in English 1038 GMT 5 Apr 94

[Text] Sapporo, April 5 KYODO—Most of Japan's minority Ainu remain dissatisfied with their standard of living, according to a survey released by the prefectural government on Hokkaido, Japan's northernmost main island. The survey showed that 33 percent of the Ainu families interviewed on Hokkaido said they find it "tough" to make ends meet, while another 44 percent opted to characterize it as "somewhat difficult."

A total of 300 Ainu families in Hokkaido, where most of Japan's Ainu live, were interviewed last June for the survey, which has been conducted every seven years since 1972. Despite complaints about difficulties in earning a livelihood, the survey showed that ratio of Ainu receiving welfare payments from the government fell from 60.9 per 1,000 population in the last survey, undertaken in 1986, to 38.8 per 1,000 population in the current survey.

The survey said Hokkaido's Ainu population stood at 23,830, or a decrease of 551 over the last survey.

There are few remaining full-blooded Ainu in Japan. Counted as Ainu in the survey were those thought to have at least some Ainu blood or those living in families with members who have Ainu blood.

The survey said the percentage of Ainu children going on to senior high school increased by 9 points to 87.4 percent, though it fell short of the 96.3 percent overall figure for Hokkaido children. A bigger gap surfaced in the figures for those children proceeding to university or college, with 11.8 percent for the relevant Ainu population compared with 27.5 percent for the overall population.

In a questionnaire targeting Ainu aged 15 and older, only 7.3 percent said they faced incidences of discrimination over the past six or seven years, while 62 percent said they had not.

Officials said the Hokkaido Prefectural Government intends to use the survey in planning its future Ainu welfare policies.

North Korea

Yang Hyong-sop Declares SPA Session Open

SK0704003694 Pyongyang Korean Central Broadcasting Network in Korean 0604 GMT 6 Apr 94

[Opening speech by Yang Hyong-sop, chairman of the Supreme People's Assembly (SPA), delivered at the opening of the seventh session of the ninth SPA held at Mansudae Assembly Hall on the morning of 6 April—recorded]

[Text] Comrade Deputies: Today we are holding the seventh session of the ninth SPA at a time when all the people are upholding the party's call and the militant tasks presented by the great leader Comrade Kim Il-song in his New Year's address and the 21st plenary session of the Sixth Central Committee of the Workers Party of Korea in vigorously waging a struggle to effect a new revolutionary upsurge in socialist construction and to smash [chitpusida] the anti-republic maneuvers of imperialists and reactionaries who are making more malicious efforts than ever before.

Overflowing with invincible faith and optimism, our people, who are single-heartedly united around the party and the leader [suryong], powerfully displayed the superiority and invincible might of the popular mass-centered socialism of our own style and firmly defended the socialist cause without any vacillation during acute confrontation with the enemies by effecting an upsurge in the construction and revolution, after the conclusion of the sixth session of the ninth SPA. [applause]

Our people, under the wise leadership of the party and the leader [suryong], vigorously waged the three revolutions—ideological, technological, and cultural—in every domain of socialist construction, holding aloft the revolutionary, socialist banner of the chuche idea. In so doing, our people brilliantly adorned the last year of the Third Seven-Year Plan by strengthening the country's political, economic, military power all the more, and triumphantly advancing the chuche socialist cause.

Observing the 30th anniversary of the publication of the great agricultural thesis, our people have proudly summed up the brilliant achievements and results scored in socialist agricultural construction, and are powerfully waging the struggle for the ultimate solution of the socialist agricultural problem, holding aloft the respected and beloved leader's [suryong] historic letter to the national agricultural meeting.

Our party designated the next three years as a period for adjustment based on scientific analysis of the present status of the situation today and our country's socialist economic construction, to set forth a revolutionary economic strategy in thoroughly implementing agriculture-first, light industry-first, and trade-first policy; to give priority to the leading sectors of people's economy; and to further develop the metal industry.

The economic strategy put forward by our party is a most just economic strategy of our style for renovating the nation's economic structure in compliance with the practical demands of changed international circumstances [pyonhwadoen kukjejok hwangyong] and our national economy and for effecting a change in direction [panghyang chonhwan] in foreign trade. [applause]

Today we are faced with the grave and honorable tasks of more satisfactorily resolving the problems pertaining to the people's living by thoroughly implementing our party's revolutionary economic strategy in accordance with the demand of socialism and of promptly upgrading [chukhyo seuda] the nation's overall economy.

Our people must fulfill tasks of the adjustment period of socialist economic construction amid fierce confrontation with the enemy.

By cherishing rock-firm faith that as long as there is the wise leadership of the party and the leader [suryong] who is leading the Korean revolution along the single road of victory with ironclad will and refined leadership, we will win victory without fail, our people today are vigorously accelerating the general march to carry out the works of the adjustment period of socialist economic construction.

Held during this historic time, the current SPA session will discuss issues with great significance in effecting a new great revolutionary upsurge in socialist construction and in consolidating and developing the systems of the state and society. Thus, it will greatly contribute to glorifying the socialist cause. [applause]

Six hundred and fifteen of the 653 SPA deputies are in attendance at the seventh session of the ninth SPA. Therefore, the session can be convened in accordance with Article 93 of the DPRK Socialist Constitution.

I firmly believe that with the active participation of all comrades deputies, the current SPA will satisfactorily discuss and decide agenda items put forward at the session. I now declare the seventh session of the ninth SPA open. [applause]

Premier's Address to SPA Session Highlighted

SK0604112894 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1113 GMT 6 Apr 94

["On Successfully Fulfilling Tasks of Socialist Economic Construction in Adjustment Period"—KCNA headline]

[Text] Pyongyang, April 6 (KCNA)—Deputy Kang Song-san, premier of the Administration Council, made a report on the first agenda item "On Successfully Fulfilling the Tasks of Socialist Economic Construction in the Period of Adjustment Set Forth by the Workers' Party of Korea" on the first day of the 7th session of the ninth Supreme People's Assembly of the DPRK which has opened here.

The reporter recalled that the 21st plenary meeting of the sixth Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea in December last year reviewed the fulfilment of the Third Seven-Year Plan and put forward an economic strategy, setting a three-year period of adjustment, on the basis of a scientific analysis of the present situation and the state of socialist economic construction in the country.

He quoted the great leader President Kim Il-song as saying:

"At the twenty-first plenary meeting of the sixth party Central Committee, the next three years were set as a period for adjustment in socialist economic construction and during this period we must implement the agriculture-first, light industry-first and foreign trade-first policies. Along with this, we must give precedence to the coal industry, power industry and rail transport, which must advance ahead of the other sectors of the national economy, while continuing to develop the metal industry."

The task of socialist economic construction in the period for adjustment is to thoroughly implement the agriculture-first, light industry-first and foreign trade-first policies and give precedence to the coal industry, power industry and rail transport, which must advance ahead of the other sectors of the national economy, while continuing to develop the metal industry.

The revolutionary economic strategy for the period of adjustment in socialist economic construction represents the steadfast determination and will of the Workers' Party of Korea to radically improve the people's living standard in the next few years and develop the national economy into an economy strong in independence which can walk on its own feet, remaining unshaken under any circumstances.

When we, by implementing the party's revolutionary economic strategy, bring about a new turn in the development of agriculture, light industry and foreign trade and keep the preferential sectors of the national economy definitely ahead of the others while continuing to develop the metal industry, the departmental structure of the economy will be further improved and its independence and potential will grow immensely.

Our party's economic strategy is a just policy which makes it possible to more successfully implement the basic line of economic construction in conformity with the demand of the prevailing situation and the developing realities.

The agriculture-first policy is the primary task to be carried out in the adjustment period.

By implementing this policy to the letter, we must make an advance in all domains of agricultural production such as grain, meat, egg, fruit and vegetable production, thus satisfactorily solving the food problem for the people.

We must, above all, consolidate the achievements in irrigation and electrification to give full scope to their potential and raise the level of comprehensive mechanization and application of chemicals to a higher stage.

We must raise the utilization rate of the existing farm machines to the maximum and, at the same time, produce above 30,000 tractors and 10,000 or more lorries and other farm machines of various kinds needed for mechanizing labour-consuming work in the adjustment period.

And the supply of nitrogenous, phosphatic and potassic fertilizers must be increased for the rural communities.

The green revolution must be pushed ahead to obtain high-grade strains of seed, which are high-yielding, suitable to the climatic and soil conditimns of our country, early-ripening and resisting storms, cold and moisture, blight and harmful insects, including the first filial generations of rice and maize which can yield 12 to 15 tons per hectare.

The per hectare yield in paddy and non-paddy fields must be raised to above 8 tons on an average and gradually to more than 10 tons to produce 15 million tons of grain in the near future.

During the period of adjustment fruit and meat output must be raised 30 percent respectively.

A big effort must be directed to the implementation of the light industry-first policy.

Textile output must be boosted above 20 percent and the output of shoes more than 10 percent in the period.

Food processing industry must be further developed to supply more abundant and diverse food to the people and the quantity and variety of consumer goods must be continuously increased.

The chemical factories and industrial establishments producing raw materials for the light industry must lift the output of vinalon and other chemical fibres and synthetic resin more than 10 percent and produce enough raw materials for the light industry including paper, dyestuffs and basic chemical goods.

A new turnabout must be made in foreign trade to cope with the changed circumstances.

A brisk drive must be launched in all sectors of the national economy to expand the production bases of export goods and improve the quality of products for a radical increase of exports.

Efforts must be directed to the building of the Najin-Sonbong free economic and trade zone to fully ensure conditions for investment by foreign businesses.

We must expand and strengthen economic ties with countries which are on good terms with our country and further develop trade and economic dealings with Southeast Asian countries which are within easy reach geographically and favourable for transactions.

Coal and power output and railway freight turnover which should advance ahead of other sectors must be increased 30 percent respectively during the period of adjustment. And investment in oil prospecting must be increased to discover more oil deposits.

The metal industry must be developed to satisfactorily meet the growing demand for irons and steels.

Radio Reports on Speech

SK0604105394 Pyongyang Korean Central Broadcasting Network in Korean 0611 GMT 6 Apr 94

[Report on the speech by Kang Song-san, premier of the DPRK Administration Council and Supreme People's Assembly (SPA) deputy, entitled "On Successfully Fulfilling the Tasks of Socialist Economic Construction in the Period of Adjustment (wanchunggi) Set Forth by the Workers Party of Korea" delivered at the opening of the seventh session of the ninth SPA held at Mansudae Assembly Hall on the morning of 6 April]

[Text] [Begin Kan Song-san recording] Comrade deputies: At a time when all the working people are vigorously accelerating the general march of socialism under the wise leadership of the party and the leader [suryong], upholding the revolutionary banner of the chuche idea, today we are to discuss the matter of successfully fulfilling the tasks of socialist economic construction in the period of adjustment set forth by the Workers Party of Korea [WPK] at this SPA session.

The 21st plenary session of the Sixth WPK Central Committee held last December summed up the status of the fulfillment of the Third Seven-Year Plan and set an adjustment period of three years and presented an economic strategy based on the scientific analysis of today's situation and the present state of our country's socialist economic construction.

Effecting a turn in socialist economic construction by thoroughly implementing the revolutionary economic strategy set forth by the party is the most important revolutionary task facing us today.

Solemnly pledging before the great leader Comrade Kim Il-song, president of the DPRK, to fulfill the strategic goal set forth by our party by thoroughly implementing the revolutionary economic strategy at any cost, I am going to present to this SPA session measures to successfully fulfill the tasks in the period of adjustment of socialist economic construction.

Comrade deputies: Successfully fulfilling the tasks of socialist economic construction in the period of adjustment set forth by the 21st plenary session of the sixth WPK Central Committee is of very important significance in the struggle to strengthen the might of the fatherland of chuche and to further add luster to the popular masses-centered socialism of our own style.

The great leader Comrade Kim Il-song has taught: In socialist economic construction, we should set the upcoming three years as a period of adjustment as decided at the 21st plenary session of the sixth party Central Committee and should thoroughly implement the agriculture-first, light-industry-first, and trade-first policies during this period. Along with this, we should give priority to the coal industry, the electric power industry, and railway transport, which are the leading sectors of the national economy, and should continue to develop the metal industry.

The task of the period of adjustment of socialist economic construction is to thoroughly implement the agriculture-first policy, the light-industry-first policy, the trade-first policy; to firmly give priority to the coal industry, the electric power industry, and railway transport—which are the leading sectors of the national economy—and to continue developing the metal industry. This is an economic strategy to rebuild [kaejo] the economic structure of the country in conformity with the changed international circumstances and the present demands of our national economy, and to bring about a change in the direction of foreign trade [taewoe muyogeso panghyang chonhwanul halte taehan].

The basic objective of the economic strategy set forth by the party is to rapidly improve the people's livelihood by concentrating efforts on developing agriculture, light-industry, and trade in two to three years to come; to regularize production in all sectors by giving priority to the leading sectors of the national economy; and, thus, to fully enhance the might of the existing economic foundation.

That our party has set forth the adjustment period of three years and has determined its economic strategy is a wise step which makes it possible to deepen and develop our socialist construction to a new, high stage while consolidating the successes registered in the fulfillment of the Third Seven-Year Plan. [applause]

The party's revolutionary economic strategy is a most just-our-style economic strategy which totally corresponds to the basic interest of our revolution and construction and which precisely reflects the aspiration and desire of our people.

The revolutionary economic strategy, which should be implemented during the period of adjustment of socialist economic construction, reflects our party's firm decision and will to epochally upgrade the people's living standard within the near future and to develop our economy into an economy that has strong independence and does not waver under any circumstances and which can survive on its own strength.

Our party's revolutionary economic strategy is a most just economic construction plan which enables us to drastically enhance the people's living standard in compliance with the demand of socialism. [applause]

It is a supreme principle in our party's activities and a consistent policy of the republic's government to constantly upgrade the people's living standard.

Thanks to the wise leadership of the party and the leader and to the popular policies of the republic's government, today our people are enjoying a happy life without any worries and anxiety with all conditions of life such as food, clothes, and spending being ensured by the state and society.

When the revolutionary economic strategy put forward by our party is embodied, a new turning point will be effected in agriculture, light-industry, and foreign trade; and the long-cherished desire of all people to eat rice with meat soup, wear silk clothes, and live in a tile-roofed house will be brilliantly realized within the near future. At the same time, the people's material and cultural life will become more abundant and plentiful [touk yuntaekhago pungjokhata] according to the nature of socialist society.

The revolutionary economic strategy of our party is a just plan which enables us to further strengthen the self-reliance of socialist economy in our country and to firmly consolidate the nation's economic foundation. [applause]

Socialism was frustrated in many countries and capitalism was restored in recent years. By taking advantage of this, the maneuvers of the imperialists and reactionaries to isolate, suffocate, and crush our republic, have been intensified more than ever before.

Under such an acute situation and changed international circumstances, it is an important issue related to the future of the socialist cause to strengthen the independence and self-reliance of our economy in every way.

Only when we consolidate the foundation of the nation's self-reliant economy and strengthen its independence can we survive with our own strength without wavering under any economic blockade maneuvers of the imperialists. Thus, we can victoriously advance the popular mass-centered socialist cause of our own style.

When we effect a new turning point in the development of agriculture, light-industry, and trade by thoroughly carrying to accomplishment the party's revolutionary economic strategy, and when we continually develop the metal industry by giving priority to precedent domains of the national economy, the sectional structure [pubun kujo] of the economy will be further perfected and its self-reliance and might will be remarkably strengthened.

Our party's economic strategy is a just policy which enables us to successfully implement the basic line of economic construction in compliance with the prevailing situation and the development of realities.

From the outset, developing heavy industry with priority has not been aimed at developing heavy industry itself, but has been aimed at developing light-industry and agriculture rapidly through the attainment of speedy, expanded reproduction. At the same time, state management has been aimed at enhancing the people's living standard systematically. [wollae, chunggongobul usonchoguro palchon sikinungosun, ku chachee mokchogi innungosi anira, hwakttae chaesangsanui nopun sokttorul pojanghayo, kyonggongopkwa nongobul ppalli palchon sikigi wihangosimyo, kugyongun inmin saenghwarul chegyejoguro nopigi wihangosimnida].

Truly, the revolutionary economic strategy which our party put forth firmly ensures a new great upswing in our country's socialist economic construction and promises a more rewarding future for our people's lives. [applause]

That our party set aside the period of adjustment for socialist economic construction and put forth a revolutionary economic strategy for this period was another important event in our country's socialist economic construction. At the same time, it was a revolutionary step that enables a firm prospect to be opened to positively cope with the prevailing situation and to attain a new high target of socialist construction. [applause]

Our party's revolutionary measure is a banner of struggle that arouses all the people vigorously to a new struggle and heroic exploits, deals a hard blow to the imperialists and reactionaries who vilify and attack socialism, and gives great hope and faith in victory to the world's progressive people who are heading for socialism. [applause]

We should successfully carry out the tasks for the period of adjustment of socialist economic construction with a great pride and self-respect in struggling with the revolutionary economic strategy under the leadership of the great leader and great party.

The agriculture-first policy is the task of primary importance we should persistently keep up in the period of adjustment. [applause]

We should thoroughly implement the agriculture-first policy and bring forth a great upturn in all areas of agricultural production, including the production of grain, meat, eggs, fruits, and vegetables, so that we can smoothly solve the problem of food for the people.

In the historic letter to the national agricultural meeting "On the Ultimate Solution of the Rural Problem Under the Banner of the Socialist Rural Theses," the great leader Comrade Kim Il-song clearly elucidated the tasks and methods to realize the industrialization and modernization of agriculture and to drastically increase the overall agricultural production, including grain. We should uphold the great leader's plan and intent and achieve a great upswing in all areas of agricultural production.

Above all, we should solidify the successes attained in the irrigation and electrification that have been completed, and let their might be amply displayed. The irrigation facilities and equipment that have been built should be in good maintenance and repair. At the same time, we should actively introduce efficient irrigation methods, such as circular irrigation, vigorously push ahead with the technological modernization project aimed at converting the water-pumping and irrigation system into a multi-waterway watering system, and manage water scientifically and technologically so that our country's great circular irrigation system may be given full play.

In conformity with the rapidly increasing mechinery and power facilities for farming and the ever-improving standard of farmers' cultural life, we should build more power supply facilities and improve the power supply system so as to satisfactorily fill the rural area's demand for electricity.

To further enhance the general mechanization and scientification standard of rural economy is an important task to solidify and modernize agriculture. We should boost the general mechanization and scientification standard of rural economy to free the farmers completely from hard and difficult labor, to continuously increase agricultural production, and to remove the gaps between industry and agriculture and between urban and rural areas.

To continuously enhance the general mechanization standard of the rural economy, we should maximize the utility rate of the available farm machines. At the same time, during the period of adjustment, we should increase the production and supply of various farm machines, including the production and supply of 30,000 tractors and over 10,000 trucks, necessary to mechanize the difficult work requiring much manual labor. We should also smoothly solve the fuel problem for the rural economy.

In conformity with the enhancement of the general mechanization standard of the rural economy, we should make the paddies and fields into large-scale standardized and mechanized fields.

The chemicalization of the rural economy must be raised to a higher level. The fertilizer plants must be all the more well repaired, maintained, and modernized, and their productive capacity must be all the more created to sufficiently supply production conditions including electricity and coal so that various chemical fertilizers can be produced and supplied all the more. Also, micronutrient fertilizer including silica fertilizer, slightly burnt magnesia fertilizer, and boron fertilizer must be supplied in assortments. In addition, bio-fertilizer including the nitrogenous bacterial fertilizer and phosphate (?decomposite) fertilizer, and botanical growth accelerant must be produced more to send them to farms. Along with this, highly effective agricultural chemicals including spray chemicals, insecticide, and disinfectant must be smoothly produced and supplied.

In accordance with raising the overall mechanization and chemicalization of the rural economy at a high level, the method of farming and the land cultivation system were developed. Therefore, in the future, work must be carried out so that one farmer can farm over 10-chongbo [1 chongbo = 2.45 acres] fields in accordance with the party's plan and will.

Based on achievements accomplished in the modern biological field, the green revolution must be vigorously accelerated in the rural economy sector so that research and introduction can be carried out on high-grade strains of seeds, which are high-yielding, suitable to the climatic and soil conditions of our country, early-ripening, and resistant to storms, cold, moisture, blight, and harmful insects, including the first filial generations of rice and maize which can yield 12-15 tonnes per chongbo.

An important reserve in increasing agricultural products lies in increasing the area of cultivated land. We must continue to vigorously push ahead with the tidal land reclamation project, and carry out the work to find new land through a mass movement to increase cultivated land and thoroughly protect it so that not even an inch of land is wasted. Also, cultivated land that is buried and washed away must be restored at the appropriate time.

Based on the agricultural technological revolution and the scientific and technological results in agriculture, we must develop the chuche farming method, carry out farm work scientifically and technologically in accordance with it, and in particular, the planned area for sowing and the number of plants per pyong [1 pyong = 3.954 square yards] must be thoroughly supplied to increase the yield per chongbo of fields from an average of over eight tonnes to over 10 tonnes so that the goal of producing 15 million tonnes of grain can be carried out annually in the near future. [end recording]

The speaker [pogoja] continued to point out that the area of orchards must be all the more increased and the fertility of soil enhanced so that fruit production during the period of adjustment can be increased by 30 percent. He said that the work in growing vegetables and basic fertilization management must be improved so that per chongbo yield can be increased considerably, and that the stock breeding industry must be further developed to increase meat production by over 30 percent so that the problem of meat can be solved smoothly.

The speaker talked about putting great strength in fulfilling the policy that light industry is the best to all the more defend, reinforce, and modernize the light-industry plants during the period of adjustment, so that its potential can be sufficiently manifested to normalize production at a high level. Therefore, textile production must be increased by over 20 percent, shoe production by over 10 percent, and food processing industry must be all the more developed so that the people's dietary life can be all the more abundant and diversified.

The speaker said that the consistent policy of our party and the republic's government is to actively investigate and mobilize local raw materials and sources and inner reserves of the plants and enterprises in production of people's consumer goods, so that they can be used effectively. He continued to say that the weight of the production of people's consumer goods through local raw material in the local industrial sector must be at a level over 70 percent, and export bases must be firmly maintained through the mass movement to actively find sources for export so that more foreign currency can be earned [suchul wonchonul chokkuk chajanaeo tomanun oehwarul poltaedaehaeso malhaetta].

The speaker talked about normalizing production at a high level at chemical plants and various plants and enterprises that supply raw material to light industry, so that production of synthetic fiber and synthetic resins including vinalon can be increased by 10 percent respectively during the period of adjustment. He also talked about smoothly producing and supplying various light industrial raw materials including paper, dyes, and basic chemical products.

While talking about bringing about a new upsurge in foreign trade in accordance with the changing environment, Premier Kang said that the policy that trade is the best must be highly upheld in all sectors of the people's economy, expand and strengthen export goods production bases, and vigorously carry out the struggle to raise the quality of goods so that exports of goods can be increased decisively.

The speaker said without promoting the leading sectors of the people's economy and developing the metal industry, the agriculture-first, light-industry-first, and trade-first policy cannot be implemented. He also said that during the period of adjustment, the production of coal and electricity and the volume of railway cargo transportation should be increased by over 1.3 times respectively, and the metal industry should be developed so that the increasing demand for steel material can be satisfactorily guaranteed.

The speaker continued his speech:

[Begin Kang recording] Comrade deputies, the tasks of socialist economic construction in the period of adjustment set forth by our party are historic and meaningful tasks of our people's struggle to complete the socialist cause. All the people should rise to carry out the rewarding tasks of struggle. [applause]

In order to successfully implementing the tasks of socialist economic construction in the period of adjustment, we should, above all, properly and flawlessly carry out economic organizational work and economic management.

The great leader Comrade Kim Il-song has taught: In order to successfully carry out socialist economic construction, economic guidance and work management should be ceaselessly improved.

The question of successfully implementing the tasks of socialist economic construction in the period of adjustment depends on whether the State Administration Council [SAC] can fulfill its role or not.

We should thoroughly implement the policy of strengthening the system in which the SAC is the center responsible for economic works set forth by the party so that the party's unitary leadership in economic works is firmly established. The SAC should implement the party's economic strategy and policy without fail, taking a position of being wholly responsible for each and every work of the party and the people.

The responsible functionaries of the SAC will learn about strong discipline and order to flawlessly organize economic operations and organizational works for implementing economic strategy and the party's policy, promptly solve all the pending problems rising from the economic works in a revolutionary manner, strengthen hold on, guidance to, and control over all areas and units of economic works, including the committees and ministries, and the provincial administrative economic committees, and thoroughly execute the decisions and guidelines of the SAC.

Highly displaying the creativity of every unit on the basis of firmly guaranteeing the country's unified guidance is one of the fundamental principles of socialist economic management.

We should provide conditions for the committees and ministries, provinces, cities, counties, plants, and enterprises to highly display their creativity and should actively help them. In particular, we should produce more goods demanded in people's daily living by mobilizing local resources and reserves to the maximum in provinces, cities, and counties, and vigorously wage a struggle to secure resources internally instead of being reliant to the center.

Improving the planning of works is one of the important demands of socialist economic construction and one of the fundamental conditions of successfully implementing the party's revolutionary economic strategy.

Economic guidance functionaries should properly coordinate economic balance under the principle of making everything obedient to implementing the economic strategy presented by the party, practically draw up the people's economic plan, and implement daily, monthly, quarterly, and indexical national plans without fail bearing a correct view and attitude that the reform of the people's economy is the party's order and the country's law.

We should give priority in unconditionally guaranteeing electricity, coal, raw material, and equipment for agriculture, light industry, and external trade sectors by properly carrying out the material supply work, and should thoroughly guarantee material and equipment demanded by the leading sectors of the people's economy and the metal industry.

All domains and units of the people's economy should actively help agriculture, light industry, and external trade sectors and vigorously carry out the people's support movement to these sectors.

We should thoroughly implement the duty of the Taean work system, and maximize economic efficiency in production and management by pushing ahead with the management of labor, equipment, and material and by taking good care of economic assets. Under the party committee's collective guidance, we should also scientifically and reasonably manage and operate the economy so that the true superiority of the collective economic management and operation method is further displayed.

In economic management, we should properly utilize economic leverages such as cost, price, and profit; correctly implement the independent accounting system; and intensify control by won [Korean monetary unit].

To successfully carry out the tasks for the period of adjustment in socialist economic construction, we should vigorously conduct the struggle to produce more and save more. One who produces more and saves more is the true loyalist and patriot today.

All sectors and units should wage a vigorous struggle to produce more and save more as a mass movement, while efficiently carrying out the economy of the country in a position befitting masters, taking good care of the properties of the state and society, and effectively utilizing idle materials and waste materials. By so doing, they should increase production to the maximum degree with the available labor, facilities, and materials.

The key to the produce-more and save-more strategy is to innovate technology in all sectors of the people's economy. We should go deep among the producing masses, actively arouse the producers' wisdom and creativity, and see to it that scientists and technicians exert their patriotic enthusiasm and talents so that they can come up with more valuable scientific and technological inventions, technologically innovative ideas, creative ideas, and rationalization ideas, so that they can be used effectively in production.

We should set up scientific and technological measures to introduce in the production facilities and processes the technology of plasma and heat radiation and the method of compound (?burning material) and to effectively use low calorie coal, [choyoltan], low-grade coal [poroktan—"bony coal"], and meta-anthracite coal. We should make sure that methane gas and (?grass briquettes) ['choyontan' not 'chomuyontan'] coal are used extensively in the provincial and rural areas.

Our party's revolutionary economic strategy is the strategy of self-reliance and fortitude. Self-reliance and fortitude is the resolute revolutionary spirit with which one is resolved to carry out the revolution and construction to the end with one's own strength. It is the indomitable struggle spirit to adhere to the revolutionary banner in the face of any obstacle and difficulty. As we have advanced up to today under the revolutionary banner of self- reliance and fortitude, so we must in the future as well complete the cause of socialism under this slogan. [applause]

Self-reliance and creative (?participation)—this should be the struggle ethos and work ethos of our functionaries. As we supported the front in the grim days of war by producing hand grenades with bare hands and effected the chollima upsurge from the empty lot after the war upholding the party by increasing steel production under the party's slogan "Let us vigorously accelerate the general onward march of socialism with the revolutionary spirit of self- reliance and fortitude," so we should thoroughly carry out the economic tasks for the period of adjustment.

If we create something out of nothing and struggle with the revolutionary spirit of self-reliance and fortitude, there will be nothing we cannot accomplish. Our functionaries should precisely fulfill the economic task entrusted to their sectors and units, producing what they need and making available what is short with an attitude and position befitting masters. By so doing, they should powerfully demonstrate once again the indomitable struggle spirit and heroic spirit of our people who advance under the banner of self-reliance. [applause]

To successfully carry out the tasks for the period of adjustment under the grave situation where the imperialists and reactionaries are more viciously maneuvering to crush our republic, we should further strengthen the wholehearted unity of the revolutionary ranks. Wholehearted unity is an immortal, glorious tradition of our revolution and a banner of victory.

To effect a new upsurge in socialist economic construction upholding the party's revolutionary economic strategy, we should, in the future as well as we have done in the past, vigorously advance under the banner of wholehearted unity. We must push through the grim situation countering it [chunomhan chongserul matppada ttulko nagaya hamyo] with the might of wholehearted unity, and crush [chitpusigo] the enemy's maneuvers with the might of wholehearted unity in order to carry out the tasks for the period of adjustment.

All the functionaries and working people should arm themselves firmly with the chuche revolutionary outlook. Uniting more firmly around the great leader Comrade Kim Il-song and our party, they must powerfully display the might of wholehearted unity of the chuche revolutionary rank in carrying out the tasks for the period of adjustment. [applause]

Invincible is the might of the popular masses who have formed a solid socio-political living organism firmly united around the party center in terms of ideology, volition, morality, and fidelity and cherishing the greatness of the party and the leader as their absolute faith. [applause]

We should become true loyalists and dutiful children who resolutely protect and defend the party and the leader in any adversity and invariably and loyally uphold the party's leadership.

We should become the resolute advocator and thorough implementor of the party's policy with the firm faith and will as in the slogan "What the party decides, we will do," and the standard-bearers of struggle who unconditionally carry out the tasks for the period of adjustment in socialist economic construction.

The economic tasks set for us for the period of adjustment are heavy and enormous, and in the course of implementing them, there can be difficulties and trials. However, as long as we have the tested leadership of the party Central Committee headed by the respected and beloved Comrade Kim Il-song, as long as we have the inexhaustible might of the popular masses wholeheartedly united around the party and the leader, and as long as we have the strong socialist economic base of self-reliance with the chuche industry as its backbone, there is no difficulty we cannot overcome, nor any fortress we cannot occupy. [applause]

There is no force in the world that can block the way of our people who advance with redoubled courage and in high spirits.

Next year, we will be greeting the 50th anniversary of national liberation and the 50th anniversary of the founding of the Workers Party of Korea. We must bring forth decisive progress in carrying out the economic tasks for the period of adjustment by effecting a new great revolutionary upsurge to brighten these significant anniversaries which are historically significant in the struggle of our party and people with high political enthusiasm and heroic exploits.

The tasks for the period of adjustment in socialist economic construction are exceedingly rewarding and resplendent, and we are assured of victory. Let us all be firmly united around the party and the leader and wage a general onward march toward the new position to charge at in order to occupy a new higher hill of socialist construction under the banner of the three revolutions—ideological, technological, and cultural—with the spirit of chollima to which the speed of the nineties is added. [applause] [end recording]

Finance Minister Delivers Budget Report

SK0704103894 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1019 GMT 7 Apr 94

[Text] Pyongyang, April 7 (KCNA)—"On the review of the performance of the state budget of the DPRK for 1993 and the state budget for 1994," the second agenda item, is now under discussion at the second-day sitting of the 7th session of the Ninth Supreme People's Assembly [SPA] here.

According to the report delivered by Deputy Yun Ki-chong, minister of finance, the total revenue of the state budget last year was 40,571,200,000 won, or 100.3 percent of the plan and 2.6 percent up on the previous year, and the total expenditure of the state budget was 40,242,970,000 won, or 99.5 percent of the plan and 2.4 percent up on the previous year.

Last year, the DPRK Government increased the appropriations for the national economy 2.5 percent, those for the development of science and technology 7 percent and those for education 3.5 percent as against 1992.

Last year, the DPRK Government allocated 11.5 percent of the total expenditure of the state budget for national defence.

The state budget for 1994 has been worked out in such a manner as to concentrate the financial resources of the nation on implementing the agriculture-first, light industry-first and foreign trade-first policies according to the revolutionary economic strategy laid down by the Workers' Party of Korea and giving precedence to the preferential sectors of the national economy, and increase the potential of the socialist independent economy of the country.

The total revenue and expenditure for 1994 are both set at 41,525,190,000 won, or 2.4 percent up in revenue and 3.2 percent up in expenditure above last year.

The DPRK Government has earmarked 11.6 percent of the total expenditure of the state budget for this year for national defence in order to consolidate the defence capabilities of the nation in face of the enemy's war provocation moves.

More on Budget Report at SPA

SK0704113894 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1108 GMT 7 Apr 94

["On Review of Performance of DPRK State Budget for 1993 and State Budget for 1994"—KCNA headline]

[Text] Pyongyang, April 7 (KCNA)—Deputy Yun Ki-chong, minister of finance, delivered a report on the second agenda item "On the Review of the Performance of the State Budget of the DPRK for 1993 and the State Budget for 1994" at the second-day sitting of the 7th session of the Ninth Supreme People's Assembly [SPA] today.

Yun Ki-chong quoted the great leader President Kim Il-song as saying:

"Last year, while achieving one victory after another under the party's leadership in the political and military confrontation with the enemy, our people glorified the final year of the Third Seven-Year Plan by displaying great revolutionary enthusiasm and accelerating the construction of the socialist economy."

According to the report, the state budget was successfully performed last year with a great upswing in socialist economic construction.

The total revenue of the state budget last year was 40,571,200,000 won, or 100.3 percent of the plan and 2.6 percent up on the previous year, and the total expenditure of the state budget was 40,242,970,000 won, or 99.5 percent of the plan and 2.4 percent up on the previous year.

As a result, the state budget last year was successfully performed, leaving a financial reserve of 328,230,000 won after fully meeting the increasing financial demands of various sectors of socialist construction.

During the Third Seven-Year plan, the state budgetary revenue of the DPRK Government increased at the rate of 5.2 percent on a yearly average, augmenting the total scale of the budgetary revenue 40 percent.

Thus, the state budget in Korea has greatly contributed to increasing the potential of the socialist independent economy, developing socialist national culture, promoting the material and cultural welfare of the people and bringing into full play the advantages of Korean-style socialism. This eloquently shows the great advantages and solidity of the state budget of Korea developing in a planned way in reliance on the independent financial basis and the validity of the financial policy of the Workers' Party of Korea [WPK].

Last year, the DPRK Government increased the appropriations for the national economy 2.5 percent as against the previous year and markedly boosted the investments in the preferential sectors of the national economy, the light industry and agriculture.

The investments in the coal industry, the mining industry, the power industry and the metal industry rose 3.5 percent compared with the previous year.

The coal production capacity has grown remarkably with the construction projects of new coal mines and new pits including the Hwaphong coal mine of the Anju District coal mining complex and the expansion projects of the existing pits promoted and completed last year.

The Komdok general mining enterprise and other big promising mines were expanded, with the result that the output of the concentrates of lead and zinc and other valuable ores augmented.

The construction of the Kumgangsan and Yongwon power stations and other large-scale hydraulic power stations and thermal power stations was promoted vigorously. The metal plants were consolidated as self-reliant and modern metallurgical bases.

Last year the DPRK Government allotted to the light industry vast amount of fund 4 percent greater than the previous year.

As a result, great innovations were effected in the production of daily necessities in urgent need for the improvement of the people's living standard.

The capacity expansion project of the Kusong textile mill and the construction projects of the March 4 factory, the Nanam garment factory and other modern textile and garment factories, shoe-making factories and food processing factories were completed and the equipment of the light industrial factories was streamlined energetically.

The large appropriations for rail transport last year was 3 percent up on the previous year. Heavy rails were introduced and railway lines were modernised at an accelerated pace, and the electrification of various railway sections and the laying of new rails were completed, with the result that the rail transport capacity grew considerably.

Last year the DPRK Government increased the investment in agriculture 2.8 percent as against the previous year.

President Kim Il-song in his historic letter to the national agricultural conference held on the lapse of 30 years since the publication of "Theses on the Socialist Rural Question in Our Country" reviewed the great achievements made by our party and people in the efforts to implement the rural theses. He declared that with the realization of irrigation, electrification and mechanization of agriculture, and with an extensive application of chemicals in farming in Korea, the historic task of the rural technical revolution set forth in the socialist rural theses has been carried out in the main.

This is an epoch-making change in the countryside of Korea and the most brilliant victory in the efforts to implement the rural theses.

The material and technical foundations of agriculture were strengthened and the chuche method of farming strictly applied, with the result that bumper crops were reaped last year in spite of unfavourable weather.

Last year, the DPRK Government channelled funds 1.5 percent greater than the previous year into housing construction and the management of towns and land.

The state increased the appropriations for scientific and technological development 7 percent and those for education 3.5 percent last year as against the previous year.

More than 20 universities and colleges including universities of technology, agriculture and physical education made their appearance last year.

The appropriations for various popular measures to further promote the wellbeing of the people was increased in the last year's state budget, granting them great additional benefits at the expense of the state.

In our country where the tax system was totally abolished 20 years ago, the factory and office employees are supplied with food almost free of charge at the expense of the state, the universal free education and medical care are in force and factory and office workers and peasants are given dwelling houses free of charge. Billions of won were disbursed for these policies last year, too.

During the period of the Third Seven-Year Plan, the WPK and the DPRK Government invariably took various communistic, popular measures for the people, not decreasing the huge financial burden of the state even under the rapidly changing situation. In this period, epochal measures were taken to raise the salaries of the factory and office workers and technicians 43.4 percent on an average, largely increase the pensions of those who benefit by social security and the scholarship of students of schools at all levels and raise the purchase price of some farm products including rice and maize so that the peasants might earn a larger income share.

Last year, the DPRK Government directed 11.5 percent of the total expenditure of the state budget to national defence to firmly defend the security of the socialist motherland and the gains of the revolution.

Today our military potential has become mighty enough to drive back any provocation and surprise attack of the enemy.

Referring to the state budget for 1994, the reporter said:

This year's state budget has been made according to the new revolutionary economic strategy shaped by the WPK in such a manner as to concentrate the nation's financial resources on implementing the agriculture-first, light industry-first and foreign trade-first policies and giving priority to the preferential sectors of the national economy and further increase the might of the country's socialist independent economy.

In the state budget the total revenue and the total expenditure are equally set at 41,525,190,000 won, the former 2.4 percent up and the latter 3.2 percent up on last year.

This year, the DPRK Government will increase appropriations for the national economy 3.2 percent as against last year, of which a large amount of the state fund will be directed preferentially to developing agriculture, light industry and foreign trade.

The state is expected to increase the investment in agriculture 6 percent and that in light industry 5.4 percent above last year.

The state investment in the expansion and consolidation of the export goods production bases will go up 4.1 percent above last year.

This year's state budget envisages that the investment in coal and power industries and railway transport will be increased 3 percent and that in metal industry 26 percent as compared with last year.

The DPRK Government will increase the appropriations for the socialist cultural policies at 2.8 percent, those for scientific development 4 percent and education 2 percent above last year.

This year, the government will increase the appropriations for the popular measures so that the people may enjoy greater state benefits in the form of free education and medical care, the upbringing and education of children at the expense of the state, social insurance and social security, etc.

This year, too, it will send a large amount of educational aid funds and stipends to Korean children in Japan.

It will allocate 11.6 percent of the total expenditure of the state budget to national defence to consolidate the defence capacity of the nation in face of the enemy's war provocation moves.

The reporter said this year's state budget submitted for deliberation at the SPA was a chuche-based, defendable budget that definitely guarantees the fulfilment of the vast tasks of the economic construction set by the party with domestic financial resources in reliance on the solid foundations of the socialist independent economy. She also said it was a popular and revolutionary budget that will help improve the material and cultural living standard of the people, increase the might of the country and bring the advantages of Korean-style socialism into full play.

Norwegian Party Condemns U.S. on Patriot Move

SK0204105394 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1016 GMT 2 Apr 94

[Text] Pyongyang, April 2 (KCNA)—Dag Norum, international secretary of the Norwegian Communist Party, was interviewed by KCNA in Pyongyang on March 30.

He said that to remove the danger of a nuclear war and ease the tensions on the Korean peninsula where an acute military confrontation continues is an important question directly linked to peace and security of the world at present.

Charging that the United States is committing insincere act, deploying Patriot missiles in South Korea by reversing the agreed conclusions reached at the DPRK-U.S. contact in New York, he said: "The Norwegian Communist Party strongly opposes the shipment of new mass destruction weapons to South Korea."

He held that the United States must not resort to "sanctions", but work for a peaceful solution of the Korean question through dialogue and negotiation.

"If the United States think it will be able to bring the Democratic People's Republic of Korea to its knees by strength, it is a big mistake," he said, and added: "The United States must abandon its anachronistic dream."

Radio Denounces U.S. Press Reporting on DPRK

SK0704035794 Pyongyang Korean Central Broadcasting Network in Korean 2200 GMT 5 Apr 94

[Text] According to reports, U.S. papers have recently came out publicly with bellicose assertions opposing our country.

According to reports by the Voice of America on 4 April, THE NEW YORK TIMES ran amok in an editorial that the United States should at once bomb North Korea's nuclear facilities. U.S. TODAY has said this and that on the inevitability of unleashing a war on the Korean peninsula.

A U.S. defense magazine, AVIATION WEEK AND SPACE TECHNOLOGY, on 5 April reported that the United States has worked out a plan to deploy ultramodern ground equipment to South Korea so as to directly analyze information sent by a spy satellite.

In an interview with National Broadcasting Company [NBC] Television Network on 3 April, U.S. Defense Secretary Perry, who has carelessly set out war outbursts [pokon] and disguisedly revealed a warmonger's true color, again brought up North Korea's fictitious nuclear development. He said that even at the cost of triggering a war on the Korean peninsula, the United States will suspend the development of nuclear arms. Raving that the United States will not rely on diplomatic means but take the road of pressuring North Korea, including imposing sanctions, he let loose outbursts that the United States will not exclude the possibility of a pre-emptive military strike on North Korea.

Timed to coincide with the U.S. military heads' war outbursts, the U.S. papers' bellicose assertions opposing us, which are being revealed more nakedly, provoke just vigilance.

U.S. Press, Secretary Perry's Remarks Condemned

SK0704051294 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0454 GMT 7 Apr 94

["Paid Trumpeters Dancing to the Tune of Warmaniacs"—KCNA headline]

[Text] Pyongyang, April 7 (KCNA)—THE NEW YORK TIMES in an editorial kicked up a war hysteria, crying for a prompt bombing raid on the nuclear sites of North Korea by the United States, according to Voice of America April 4.

USA TODAY also clamoured about "the inevitability of a war on the Korean peninsula."

The U.S. Defence Secretary William Perry has let loose a string of bellicose outbursts, fully revealing his true color as a warmaniac. In an interview with the U.S. NBC Television on April 3, he again brought forward the fiction of "nuclear arms development by North Korea" and declared that the United States was ready for a war adventure to check it.

Responding to the bellicose utterances of a U.S. brass-hat, paid trumpeters of the United States are coming out with nonsensical arguments against the DPRK.

The very one bringing the dark clouds of a nuclear war over the Korean peninsula is the United States which is threatening the DPRK with nuclear weapons.

In vociferating about the fictitious "nuclear weapons development" by North Korea, the U.S. warlikers seek to find a pretext to stifle the socialist system of the DPRK.

Ignoring this stark fact, paid trumpeters of the U.S. are dancing to the drum-beating of the warmaniacs. This shows that they are despicable hackwriters who have thrown away justice and conscience, impartiality and truth of the press like a pair of wornout shoes for a few dollars.

The trumpeters bribed by the U.S. bellicose elements would be well advised to act with discretion, drawing a proper lesson from the doom of such warmaniacs as Hitler and Tojo who perished in the flame of the war of aggression kindled by them to subjugate other countries and nations and from the doom of the hackwriters who played into their hands.

Overseas Koreans Protest Patriot Deployment

SK0704001494 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1516 GMT 6 Apr 94

["Overseas Koreans Protest Shipment of Patriots"—KCNA headline]

[Text] Pyongyang, April 6 (KCNA)—Overseas Korean compatriots have protested against the U.S. imperialists' shipment of "Patriot" missiles into South Korea.

The European regional headquarters of the National Alliance for the Country's Reunification, in a statement, expressed a surging indignation at the introduction of patriots and other sophisticated weapons into South Korea by the United States, saying it is increasing the war crisis on the Korean peninsula.

Kim Chong-su, chairman of the Association of Koreans in Japan for Peaceful Reunification, said in a press statement:

The United States is sending its military intelligence team and a large quantity of latest-type weapons to South Korea and scheming large-scale military exercises there. This is an unpardonable criminal act intended to keep hold on South Korea as its colony and military base and, furthermore, into its nuclear forward base, military information-gathering centre and to lead the situation of the Korean peninsula to the grave brink of war.

The Federation of South Koreans in Japan for Democracy and Unification in a statement strongly urged the United States to withdraw at once the projected Patriots deployment in South Korea and stop all kinds of war games including the provocative "Team Spirit" joint military exercises.

ROK-U.S. War Games on 4, 5 Apr Denounced

U.S.-ROK 'Discretion' Urged

SK0704082294 Pyongyang Korean Central Broadcasting Network in Korean 1200 GMT 6 Apr 94

[Text] According to a military source, the U.S. imperialists brought in succession overseas-based fighter-bombers, pursuit-assault planes, vertical takeoff and landing assault planes and an early warning plane, and tanker planes to South Korea, and staged provocative joint air war exercises against the North.

On 4 April, an E-3 early warning plane, FA-18 pursuit-assault planes, AV-8 VTOL [vertical takeoff and landing] assault planes and KC-135 tanker planes rushed to bases of U.S. Air Force in South Korea. Following this, on 5 April, formations of military airplanes belonging to the U.S. Marine Corps and tanker planes again flew into bases of the U.S. Air Force in South Korea.

These military airplanes, deployed from overseas bases, ran amok with exercises, such as a surprise bombing on ground targets, air attack and support of ground attack, with the skies above Oeyon islet, Chungju, Tanyang and Pyongchang as operational theaters, in coordination with several hundreds of fighter-bombers, pursuit-assault planes, observation planes and reconnaissance planes of the U.S. Air Force in South Korea and the puppet air force.

On 4 April, an E-3 early warning plane, called a flying commanding post, commanded airplanes, which ran wild with joint air war exercises, by searching targets under the protection by formations of pursuit-assault planes.

On 4 and 5 April, KC-135 tanker planes refueled 50-odd F-16 fighter-bombers and A-10 assault planes engaged in air war exercises, by making shuttle flights between the skies over the sea off Kunsan and Tokchok Island for a long time, thus instigating an atmosphere of war.

These gun powder-reeking and frenzied war exercises were an extremely dangerous play with fire aimed at promoting actual combat capabilities of overseas-based airplanes for mobilization to bases in South Korea and for a surprise northward attack under coordination with formations of airplanes belonging to the U.S. Air Force in South Korea and the puppet Air Force.

Meanwhile, the South Korean puppets ran wild with exercises by firing guns and conducting helicopter operation before our eyes in the foremost frontline.

On 4 and 5 April, large-caliber artillery units of the puppet Army, which were mobilized and deployed in areas in Majon-ni, Yonchon County, and in Kangsan-ni and Sangsan-ni in Chorwon County in South Korean Kangwon Province, indiscriminately fired more than 60 shells at areas near the Demilitarized Zone. Armed hooligans of the puppet Army occupied the attack starting points in Pangmong-ni, Paju County, Chokkori, Yonchon County, and Oechon-ni and Yulli in Chorwon-up, Chorwon County in the South Korean Kangwon Province, and fired more than 1,000 shells of large-caliber machine guns and automatic rifles, thus showing war hysterics.

On 5 April, formations of helicopter gunships and transport helicopters of the puppet Army staged missile strike and airlifting exercises, making low- and ultralow-altitude flights in the skies above Paju and Yonchon areas.

Warplanes mobilized in various air war games against the North which were staged over South Korea on 4 and 5 April totaled more than 700.

Such provocative military moves by the U.S. imperialists and the South Korean puppets, which are becoming more reckless at a time when frenzied, bellicose remarks were made by the U.S. military leaders one after another, are indeed alarming.

The U.S. imperialists and the South Korean puppets must act with discretion, clearly mindful of the seriousness of the tensions created on the Korean peninsula.

Moves Termed Provocative, Reckless

SK0704050594 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0444 GMT 7 Apr 94

[Text] Pyongyang, April 7 (KCNA)—The U.S. imperialists on April 4 brought overseas-based E-3 early warning plane, FA-18 pursuit-assault planes, AV-8 VTOL [vertical takeoff and landing] assault planes and KC-135 tanker planes to South Korea for provocative joint air war exercises against the Northern half of Korea, military sources said.

Exercises, such as a surprise bombing on ground targets, air attack and support of ground attack, were staged with the skies above Chungju, Tanyang and Pyongchang as operational theatres. They involved hundreds of fighter-bombers, assault planes, observation planes and reconnaissance planes belonging to the U.S. Airforce in South Korea and the puppet Airforce.

In another development, the South Korean puppets on April 4 and 5 fired shells and volleys of large-calibre machinegun and automatic rifle bullets into spots near the Demilitarized Zone in Yonchon and Paju Counties, Kyonggi Province, and Chorwon County, South Korean Kangwon Province.

On the 5th of April, formations of helicopter gunships and transport helicopters of the puppet Army staged missile strike and airlifting exercises, making low- and ultralow-altitude flights in the skies above Paju and Yonchon areas.

Warplanes mobilized in various air war games against the North which were staged in skies above South Korea in two days totaled more than 700.

Very ill-boding are provocative military moves of the U.S. imperialists and the South Korean puppets which are becoming all the more reckless.

They must act with discretion, clearly mindful of the seriousness of the tensions created on the Korean peninsula.

Foreign Political Parties Denounce U.S. Policy

SK0704104694 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1029 GMT 7 Apr 94

["U.S. Policy Toward Korea Under Fire"—KCNA headline]

[Text] Pyongyang, April 7 (KCNA)—Political parties and representatives of many countries denounced the U.S. hostile policy toward Korea.

The national committee of the Workers' Party of Zaire in a statement on March 30 said that the situation of the Korean peninsula has become acute due to the provocative moves of the United States and vehemently denounced the bellicose U.S. administration's hostile policy toward Korea.

The statement demanded that the United States discontinue the "Team Spirit" joint military exercises as it promised to the DPRK and stop the deployment of Patriot missiles in South Korea and the United Nations keep aloof from the U.S. moves of aggression.

The Central Committee of the Communist Party of Ecuador in a statement on March 29 called upon the peaceloving people of the world to put a stop to the arrogant military action of the U.S. imperialists for deploying "Patriot" missiles in South Korea and igniting a new war and to extend firm solidarity with the Korean people's cause of justice.

A letter of protest was sent to the U.N. secretary general on March 28 by Guillermo Santiago, representative of the Dominican Communist Party; Camilo Gonzalez, representative of the Chilean Popular Unity Action Movement; Luis Agoes, representative of the Democratic Revolutionary Party of Panama; Mauricio Castro, representative of the Salvadorian Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front; and Mauricio Santillana Oliva, representative of the Communist Party of Chile, who are resident in Cuba.

The letter demanded that the U.N. no more be used as an arena of bargaining among big powers and that the nuclear issue of the Korean peninsula be resolved through DPRK-USA talks.

Chongnyon Blames U.S. on Nuclear Issue

SK0704110294 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1033 GMT 7 Apr 94

["Chongnyon Chief Vice-Chairman on Current Situation Over 'Nuclear Issue'"—KCNA headline]

[Text] Tokyo, April 5 (KNS-KCNA) [dateline as received]—Ho Chong-man, chief vice-chairman of the Central Standing Committee of the General Association of Korean Residents in Japan (Chongnyon), on April 5 was invited to address a general meeting and a roundtable talk on Japan-Korea Affairs of the Japan-Korea Committee of the Japan Social Democratic Party (JSDP).

Referring to the current situation surrounding the "nuclear issue", Ho Cnong-man said the United States is entirely to blame for the situation in which the agreed conclusions reached at the DPRK-U.S. contact in New York on Februray 25 and the Feb. 15 agreement between the DPRK and the International Atomic Energy Agency had been reversed, and for the situation of the Korean peninsula which is rushing headlong to the brink of war.

He said that the "presidential statement" of the UN Security Council was another international pressure upon the DPRK and that such "threat" and "pressure" could never be a solution to the problem.

"The 'nuclear issue' must be solved fairly in keeping with the special status of the DPRK in which it has temporarily suspended the effectuation of its announced withdrawal from the treaty on the non-proliferation of nuclear weapons," he said, expressing the hope that the JSDP would play a positive role to this end.

Dailies Assail 'Unwarrantable' UNSC Statement

SK0704052294 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0503 GMT 7 Apr 94

[Text] Pyongyang, April 7 (KCNA)—Papers here today denounce the recent publication of a "presidential statement" by the UN Security Council [UNSC] urging the DPRK to accept an additional inspection by the International Atomic Energy Agency as a very wrong act contrary to the aim and principle of the UN charter.

Stating that the DPRK's "nuclear issue" is not a matter to be discussed by the UN Security Council, a news analyst of NODONG SINMUN says:

The DPRK is in a special status after temporarily suspending the effectuation of its declared withdrawal from the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty. Accordingly, it is not obliged to undergo routine and ad hoc inspections by the agency.

If the UN Security Council is willing to resolve the nuclear issue of the Korean peninsula, it should take issue with the United States that is laying hurdles in the way of the solution of the nuclear issue and wrecking peace and security with a huge quantity of nuclear weapons, and its underlings, the South Korean authorities.

When it caviled at the DPRK, the UN Security Council showed that it was applying a double standard and playing into the hands of the United States in its policy of stifling the DPRK.

It must bear due responsibility for the consequences of its illegal dealing with the DPRK's "nuclear issue" against the aim and principle of the UN charter.

A news analyst of MINJU CHOSON warns that when the United States and its followers are further expanding their anti-DPRK pressure kickup, taking the "nuclear issue" of the DPRK to the international arena, the DPRK cannot but take an appropriate measure.

It is the will and invariable stand of the DPRK to maintain an independent policy and not to allow any unwarrantable demands, declares the paper.

Peace Committee Condemns U.S. 'Maneuverings'

SK0704054094 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0439 GMT 7 Apr 94

[Text] Pyongyang, April 7 (KCNA)—The Korean National Peace Committee published a statement Wednesday in connection with the fact that peace and security of the Korean peninsula face a grave challenge.

The statement resolutely denounces the maneuverings of the U.S. imperialists and the South Korean ruling quarters to deploy new-type missiles and provoke another war, branding them as an outrageous challenge to the sincere efforts of the DPRK and its people for peace and peaceful reunification of the country, as an unpardonable criminal act of driving the Korean peninsula into a whirlwind of confrontation and war.

The military moves by the U.S. imperialists and the South Korean puppets remind us of the situation on the eve of the Korean war in the '50s, it notes.

The shipment of Patriot missiles into South Korea by the U.S. imperialists and their stooges can be justified on no account, the statement says, and stresses:

The entire fellow countrymen in the North and the South and overseas should turn out as one in an anti-U.S., anti-war, and anti-nuke struggle to smash by their united efforts the moves of the United States and the Kim Yong-sam group to introduce patriot and provoke another war, which will wreck peace of the Korean peninsula.

If the U.S. imperialists and the South Korean puppets dare to provoke a war against the North, the Korean people will mete out a severe punishment to the enemy, demonstrating the dignity and stamina of chuche Korea to the world.

U.S., Japan Called To Reject 'Second Cocom'

SK0704103494 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1014 GMT 7 Apr 94

["Second Cocom Must Not Be Allowed"—KCNA headline]

[Text] Pyongyang, April 7 (KCNA)—The Western imperialists including the United States and Japan are reportedly scheming to lay a new embargo on the anti-imperialist independent countries including the DPRK under the pretext of "prevention of terrorism and regional dispute" in the wake of the March 31 disbandment of the Coordinating Committee for Export to Communist Area (Cocom).

Japan is most zealous in this. The Japanese authorities openly declared they would strictly control the goods banned by the Cocom, charging some countries with "terrorism" and "dispute," the NHK reported recently.

This shows the Japanese Government is sticking to the hostile policy to the DPRK. It is an unpardonable challenge motivated by the urge to isolate and stifle the DPRK through pressure and "sanctions" and, at the same time, block the movement of the world revolutionary people for independence against imperialism.

The persistent effort of the imperialists of the West including the United States and Japan to fabricate a second Cocom for their sinister political purpose under the cloak of "prevention of terrorism" and "regional dispute" after the end of the Cold War is an anachronistic act of those who remain a captive to the concept of confrontation.

It is outrageous of them to use "prevention of terrorism" and "regional dispute" as a pretext to fake up a second Cocom.

It is the United States where terrorism is openly pursued as a state policy under the cloak of "prevention of terrorism," and it is also the United States that encourages regional disputes in the world and makes the situation more complicated through interference.

It is ridiculous of the masterminds of international terrorism and regional disputes to take a new measure of export ban, charging some countries with "terrorism and regional disputes."

Although the Western imperialists are working to fabricate a second Cocom after its disbandment and put a spoke in the wheel of the movement of the world revolutionary people for independence against imperialism, it is a foolish attempt.

They must revoke the new measure of embargo, clearly mindful that their criminal act against the trend of the times will only run up against strong criticism and rejection from the world people.

SKNDF Report Denounces ROK Nuclear Development

SK0204061294 (Clandestine) Voice of National Salvation in Korean to South Korea 0300 GMT 31 Mar 94

[Text] The Central Committee of the South Korean National Democratic Front [SKNDF] on 30 March published a white paper revealing that the heavy water reactor in Wolsong and the multipurpose research reactor in Taedok are for nuclear development.

Saying that the Kim Yong-sam clique misled the public opinion by insisting that the experimental reactors of North Korea are for the development of nuclear weapons, so as to kick up anti-North smear campaign, the white paper pointed out that this is like an act of a thief turning on the victim with a club.

The white paper maintained that the reactors used for the development of nuclear weapons on the Korean peninsula are not the experimental reactor of North Korea, which has generating capacity of 5,000 kilowatts, but the heavy water reactor in Wolsong with 678,700 kilowatt and the multipurpose research reactor in Taedok with 30,000 kilowatt.

Based on accurate materials, the white paper expressed that the Wolsong heavy water reactor is a reactor for the development of nuclear weapons disguised as one for commercial use. It added that it is a plutonium-producing reactor, introduced for the development of nuclear weapons and not for commercial use, in view of its purpose and structure. The white paper disclosed that the Wolsong heavy water reactor disgorges a large amount of spent fuel containing high-level plutonium and is used directly for the development of nuclear weapons.

In addition, the white paper pointed out that the multipurpose research reactor complex is a reactor exclusively for nuclear arms development under the veil of research. The white paper exposed that the multipurpose research reactor is a reactor for the development of nuclear weapons set up in the eighties as an alternate project as the attempt to introduce it for the key role in the nuclear development in the seventies had failed.

The white paper revealed on the basis of the accurate materials that the multipurpose research reactor is not an experimental reactor with a peaceful purpose but for military use which is used as a diazole in the production of nuclear weapons, and said the problem lies on the fact it is closely linked with reprocessing facilities.

The white paper insists that all these facts prove that the Wolsong heavy water reactor and the multipurpose research reactor in Taedok are for the military use, and it is South Korea, not North Korea, which confronts the denuclearization of the Korean peninsula.

The white paper said that the South Korean authorities are openly claiming the reexamination of the joint declaration on the denuclearization of the Korean peninsula and eager to develop the nuclear weapons by openly calling for nuclear option. If this is not true, the white paper maintains, the South Korean authorities must give up the policy of nuclear arms development pushed ahead in accordance with the anti-North nuclear smear campaign, and declare the removal of the heavy water reactor and the multipurpose research reactor which are used for the production of nuclear weapons.

ROK 'Suppression' of Trade Unions Condemned

SK0604105894 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1040 GMT 6 Apr 94

["Crackdown on Trade Unions Condemned"—KCNA headline]

[Text] Pyongyang, April 6 (KCNA)—The Kim Yong-sam group's suppression of South Korean trade unions is under fire in MINJU CHOSON today.

The analyst says:

The South Korean puppets a few days ago arrested a working member, the organizational section chief and two other core members of the Ulsan-based Hyundai Heavy Industries Trade Union on the suspicion of the violation of "the National Security Law" (NSL). Meanwhile, the puppet Labour Ministry put forward "a policy of intensifying investigation into the operation" of trade unions and announced that it "would be promoted from the viewpoint of reforms."

These facts clearly show how craftily and viciously the foxy traitor Kim Yong-sam is working to suppress trade unions.

The suppression is aimed at keeping the workers from being awakened and organized and from taking a massive action through trade unions.

Last year in which the traitor came to power, 2,590 workers were put on the "want" list and more than 3,000 workers were fired unjustifiably for their involvement in the labour movement.

As if it were not enough, the Kim Yong-sam group arrested core elements of trade unions by invoking the notorious "NSL" and is going to intensify "investigation into the operation" of trade unions. This reveals their consciousness of crisis.

The reality proves that, with the Kim Yong-sam group left alone, it is impossible for the South Korean workers to win the right to existence, let alone democratic freedom.

The South Korean workers will vigorously struggle to overthrow the traitor Kim Yong-sam engaged in anti-popular misrule and establish an independent, democratic government, concludes the analyst.

Student Group Urges U.S. To Improve DPRK Ties

SK0704001294 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1512 GMT 6 Apr 94

[Text] Pyongyang, April 6 (KCNA)—The South Korean Federation of General Student Councils (Hanchongnyon), the vanguard organization of one million students in South Korea, reportedly contended, in a document adopted at a rally, that the United States should find a key to the solution of what it calls "nuclear issue" of the North in the improvement of relations with the North, not in pressure.

The document stated that "after it declared its withdrawal from the nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty the North has totally frustrated with its flexible and steadfast strategy the maneuverings of the United States and other imperialists to isolate it."

ROK Student Security Violation Arrest Decried

SK0704052894 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0509 GMT 7 Apr 94

["Hysterics of Dictator Under 'Civilian' Mask"—KCNA headline]

[Text] Pyongyang, April 7 (KCNA)—It is entirely unjustifiable that the South Korean authorities inflicted penalties upon the chairman of the General Student Council of Kwangju University, the ex-director of the department for solidarity of the general student council of Chonnam National University and the ex-chairman of the national reunification committee of the university on charges of exchanging letters with students of Kim Il-song University and leading demonstrations, says NODONG SINMUN today.

The reunification movement conducted by South Korean students to put a period to national division is a praiseworthy patriotic act and it can by no means be incriminated, the news analyst says, and goes on:

The criminal is none other than the Kim Yong-sam group itself which, seeking confrontation, not national unity, has broken up inter-Korean dialogue which continued even under the military dictatorship and has left no stone unturned in obstructing and suppressing the pro-reunification patriotic movement of students and people. It is a brutal act bereft of human nature, let alone an iota of national conscience, for the Kim Yong-sam traitor clique, the very criminal, to brandish the sword at the students who conducted righteous activities.

This time the Kim Yong-sam group again invoked the notorious "National Security Law" in imposing penalties upon the patriotic students. The "National Security Law" is a most reactionary anti-communist fascist law that violates all the freedom and rights of the people and defines the fellow countrymen in the North as an "enemy" and incriminates any contact with them. The Kim Yong-sam group still keeps that kind of law and uses it as a tool for maintaining "power", ignoring the unanimous opposition of the people at home and abroad. This proves that it is a group of human dregs and hooligans who are clean indifferent to the desire of the nation and the trend of the times.

The Kim Yong-sam group is trying to find a way out in bringing anti-reunification storm, following outside forces. But it is a foolish dream.

The Kim Yong-sam group must stop anti-reunification suppression at once.

Korean Human Rights Defense Group Meets in Tokyo

SK0404075294 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0516 GMT 4 Apr 94

[Text] Tokyo, April 2 (KNS-KCNA)—A meeting of the Committee for Defending Human Rights of Koreans in Japan was held at the Korean House in Tokyo on March 30.

The meeting stressed the need to radically develop the work for defending rights of the compatriots, enhance the role of the special measure committee and briskly conduct activities to defend rights of the compatriots in face of the anti-DPRK, anti-Chongnyon (the General Association of Korean Residents in Japan) moves of the international reactionaries.

Koreans in Japan Group Supports DFRF Appeal

SK0704001594 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1527 GMT 6 Apr 94

[Text] Tokyo, April 4 (KNS-KCNA)—The chairman of the Association of Koreans in Japan for Peaceful Reunification, Kim Chong-su, voiced support for the appeal of the Central Committee of the Democratic Front for the Reunification of the Fatherland (DFRF).

The DFRF Central Committee issued an appeal to the compatriots in South Korea and overseas on March 29 denouncing the criminal moves of the U.S. imperialists and the South Korean puppet clique bringing an extremely grave danger of a nuclear war to the Korean peninsula and the Korean nation.

In a statement released on April 2, Kim Chong-su declared that Koreans in Japan would unite closely with the compatriots in the homeland and overseas on the basis of "10-point programme of the great unity of the whole nation for the reunification of the country" and strengthen solidarity with the justice-loving and peace-loving people around the world to invigorate the struggle for thwarting the nuclear war provocation moves of the U.S. imperialists and the South Korean puppet clique, definitely preserving peace on the Korean peninsula and promoting national reunification.

Analyst on Japan's 'Desire' for Military Power

SK0604103094 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1021 GMT 6 Apr 94

["Japan's Desire To Become Military Power Unchanged"—KCNA headline]

[Text] Pyongyang, April 6 (KCNA)—Japanese Prime Minister Morihiro Hosokawa never let a chance pass by without claiming that "Japan would never be a military power" and "Japan should set the pace in worldwide arms cut." He is straining every nerve to convince the Asian nations in particular that Japan will not choose to be a military power. Commenting on this, a NODONG

SINMUN analyst today says: But what Japan is doing totally gainsays this. In fact, its armed forces are being beefed up and its conversion into a military power is being hastened.

The analyst points out:

The Japanese Government decided to allocate 45,000 million dollars to military expenditure this year.

It must not be overlooked that Japan is arming the "self-defence forces" with long-range attack weapons.

Nuclear armament is an immediate main goal in converting Japan into a military power. Having completed material and technical preparations for the manufacture of nuclear weapons, Japan developed and launched even a nuclear-capable space rocket.

After paving the way for the dispatch of troops overseas, Japan has taken a mobilisation posture so that it may send large combat units anywhere and any time.

In categorically denying Japan's scheme to convert itself into a military power, the Japanese authorities seek to lull the concern of the Asian peoples over the danger of its aggression and dull their caution.

It is the ulterior intention of the Japanese ruling quarters to become a military power and realise their old dream of "the greater east Asia coprosperity sphere" with strength.

The Asian people are watching the movement of Japan with heightened vigilance.

The conversion of Japan into a military power and its overseas aggression will lead it to self-destruction.

Japan must act with discretion, not forgetting the lesson of history.

Japan Accused of 'Scheme' for Nuclear Power

SK0704051794 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0458 GMT 7 Apr 94

["Japan's Nuclear Armament Reaches Danger Line"—KCNA headline]

[Text] Pyongyang, April 7 (KCNA)—A fast breeder reactor Monju built in Tsuruga, Fukui Prefecture, Japan, went into operation on April 5, reported NHK.

The commissioning of Monju fully reveals Japan's undisguised scheme to become a nuclear power by securing a large quantity of plutonium for itself and manufacturing nuclear weapons any moment.

It is an open challenge to the Korean people and the Asian and world people who are desirous of peace.

Japan is already possessed of elements for the manufacture of nuclear bombs including electronic explosive devices and their technologies. Before commissioning Monju it launched the large long-range rocket "H-2" in February this year. Its nuclear armament has now reached the danger line.

Nevertheless, the Japanese authorities are now crying for "additional inspection" and "economic sanctions" over the fictitious "nuclear issue" of the DPRK. This is as base as a thief crying "stop thief" the Japanese authorities must give up their criminal nuclear design, mindful of the grave consequences to be entailed by their moves to make Japan a nuclear power.

Cirelco Issues Appeal for Reunification Support

SK0704133594 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1024 GMT 7 Apr 94

[Text] Pyongyang, April 7 (KCNA)—The International Liaison Committee for Reunification and Peace in Korea (Cilreco) published an appeal headlined "Let Us Launch a Vigorous Signature Campaign Supporting '10-Point Programme of the Great Unity of the Whole Nation for the Reunification of the Country'" on March 29.

The appeal says that the "10-point programme of the great unity of the whole nation for the reunification of the country" advanced by the great leader President Kim Il-song in April last year is a great program of reunification which indicates to the Korean people a clear way for founding an independent, neutral, peaceful and non-aligned confederal state by their own efforts.

The appeal calls upon the committees for supporting Korea's reunification and organisations of friendship and solidarity with the Korean people in different countries to conduct a vigorous international signature campaign supporting the "10-point programme of the great unity of the whole nation for the reunification of the country".

Sihanouk Hosts Kim Il-song at Guesthouse

SK0704133794 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1128 GMT 7 Apr 94

[Text] Pyongyang, April 7 (KCNA)—President Kim Il-song of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea today called on His Majesty [H.M.] King Norodom Sihanouk of Cambodia at the guest house.

He was accompanied by Vice-Premier and Foreign Minister Kim Yong-nam, Vice-Minister of Foreign Affairs Cho Kyu-il, DPRK Ambassador to Cambodia Kim Hyong-yol and officials concerned.

President Kim Il-song was greeted at the guest house by H.M. King Norodom Sihanouk and deputy prime minister, minister of the royal palace and Minister of Agriculture Kong Sam-ol, Cambodian Ambassador to Korea Oum Mannorine, Minister of State and Secretary General of the king's cabinet Chhorn Hay and others.

President Kim Il-song had a cordial and friendly talk with H.M. King Norodom Sihanouk.

H.M. King Norodom Sihanouk showed President Kim Il-song the feature film "Distressed Peasants" of his own making and arranged a luncheon at the guest house.

H.M. King Norodom Sihanouk expressed deep thanks to President Kim Il-song for the hospitality during his visit.

President Kim Il-song exchanged greetings with H.M. King Norodom Sihanouk at parting.

President Kim Il-song presented a gift to H.M. King Norodom Sihanouk.

Kim Il-song Praised for Building Trade Unions

SK0504044894 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0433 GMT 5 Apr 94

[Text] Pyongyang, April 5 (KCNA)—A symposium of officials and members of the General Federation of Trade Unions of Korea on the immortal exploits performed by the great leader President Kim Il-song in building trade unions was held here Monday.

Speakers there said that one of the immortal exploits performed by the great leader in building trade unions is that he had provided deep roots of the federation by forming the anti-Japanese trade union, a mass political organization of the working class, during the anti-Japanese revolutionary struggle.

They noted that another exploit is that he, basing himself on this tradition, founded the General Federation of Trade Unions of Korea after the liberation of the country, and has indicated in a scientific way the character and duty of the federation in each period and at each stage of the development of the revolution and wisely led the work to this end.

They also recalled that the dear leader Comrade Kim Chong-il has further developed in depth the idea and theory of building the chuche-orientated trade unions and built up the organizations into a reliable assistant and defender of the Workers' Party of Korea.

Kim Chong-il Extends Thanks to Working People

SK0504045894 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0450 GMT 5 Apr 94

[Text] Pyongyang, April 5 (KCNA)—The dear leader Comrade Kim Chong-il sent thanks to war veterans in Yongsong District, Pyongyang municipality, who had given energetic assistance in the construction of grand monumental edifices. About 300 veterans of the fatherland liberation war in the district had rendered active assistance in the construction of the monument to the victorious fatherland liberation war and other grand monumental edifices.

Comrade Kim Chong-il also sent thanks to Yi Pong-suk, an agitator of the February 8 vinalon complex, and Mun Chae-kyong, an agitator of the Ponghwa cooperative farm in Kangdong County, Pyongyang municipality, who had set examples in propaganda and agitation.

Yi Pong-suk had contributed to the education of working people, using over 14,000 items of agitation data made by herself in the agitation activity.

In the case of Mun Chae-kyong, not only he but also all his family had become agitators and roused co-op farmers to implement the socialist rural theses.

Revolutionary Martyrs Cemetery Anniversary Noted

SK0504043794 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0426 GMT 5 Apr 94

[Text] Pyongyang, April 5 (KCNA)—It is 40 years since the revolutionary martyrs' cemetery was built.

The great leader President Kim Il-song saw to it that the cemetery was built on April 5, 1954.

The cemetery is located on top of the Jujak peak of Mt. Taesong in Pyongyang.

Lying buried there are anti-Japanese revolutionary martyrs including Comrade Kim Chong-suk, an indomitable communist revolutionary fighter, who dedicated their precious lives to the anti-Japanese revolutionary struggle and the struggle for the victory of the socialist cause under the wise leadership of President Kim Il-song.

In the cemetery there are a monument bearing the autograph of President Kim Il-song, bronze busts of martyrs, and a wreath-laying stand on which the medal of hero of the DPRK is embossed.

The cemetery was reconstructed on an expansion basis into a grand monumental edifice on the occasion of the 40th anniversary of the founding of the Workers' Party of Korea (October 10, 1985) under the energetic and meticulous guidance of the dear leader Comrade Kim Chong-il.

The cemetery is a symbol of the deep trust and sense of obligation of President Kim Il-song and Comrade Kim Chong-il for the anti-Japanese revolutionary martyrs, and high appreciation of the exploits of the martyrs who remained loyal to the party and the leader, the country and the people till their last moments.

A meeting was held to mark the 40th anniversary of the establishment of the cemetery.

At the meeting, Pak Song-chol, Politburo member of the C.C. [Central Committee], the Workers' Party of Korea and vice-president, conveyed a message of thanks of the WPK Central Committee to the officials and employees of the management office of the revolutionary martyrs' cemetery.

The message highly praises the officials and employees of the management office for their responsible management of the cemetery and education of people through the cemetery over the last 40 years.

Senegal Independence Day Observed

SK0504045794 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0447 GMT 5 Apr 94

[Text] Pyongyang, April 5 (KCNA)—MINJU CHOSON today dedicates an article to the independence day of Senegal.

The independence of Senegal was a historical event of great significance, the brilliant fruition of the protracted struggle of the Senegalese people for freedom and liberation, the author of the article says, and continues:

After the independence of the country, the Senegalese people have made achievements in their efforts to attain political stability and build the national economy and culture.

Pursuing a non-alignment policy externally, the Senegalese Government opposes imperialism, colonialism and racism and is developing friendly relations with many countries.

The peoples of Korea and Senegal established bonds of friendship.

The Korean people will make every effort in the future to expand and develop the friendly relations with the Senegalese people in various fields.

They wish the Senegalese people greater success in their endeavours for the independent development and prosperity of the country.

KCNA Marks 14th Year of Public Health Law

SK0504115294 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1004 GMT 5 Apr 94

[Text] Pyongyang, April 5 (KCNA)—Today marks the 14th anniversary of the enforcement of the law on public health in Korea.

This law adopted at the fourth session of the Sixth Supreme People's Assembly of the DPRK in April 1980, codifies the brilliant achievements made in the health care in the country and gives a theoretical systematization of the principles and requirements for developing it to a new, higher stage. This day is significantly commemorated as day of public health every year in the country.

The DPRK enforced a free medical care system 40 odd years ago in the thick of the fatherland liberation war. This complete and universal free medical care system grants to all people equal medical benefits. All the costs in health care such as diagnosis, treatment, surgical operation, hospitalization and recuperation are free.

In the DPRK where the advanced section doctor system is in force and preventive medicine is the key point, people are given enormous benefits through regular check-up, vaccination and other medical assistance.

Modern people's hospitals have been built in cities and rural villages and at industrial establishments and maternity hospitals, dental preventive hospitals and other specialized medical care bases are available everywhere.

Several dozen central pharmaceutical factories and thousands of local pharmaceutical factories in Sunchon, Nanam, Sinuiju and other parts of the country satisfactorily meet the demand for medicines.

The state ensures that mineral water resources abundant in the country are used effectively for the promotion of the working people's health. Now hundreds of mineral springs are available in 150 odd areas.

Public health workers have written many valuable scientific papers while engaging themselves in preventive and curative services, resulting in marked improvement of medical care.

Thanks to the popular policy of the party and the state and devoted efforts of the health workers, the average life expectancy at birth of the population has reached 74.5 years.

The number of the old folks above 90 is on the increase. Last year it was five times the 1980 figure.

Cuban News Director Arrives in Pyongyang

SK0704112194 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1048 GMT 7 Apr 94

[Text] Pyongyang, April 7 (KCNA)—Pedro Margolles Villanueva, director general of the PRENSA LATINA of Cuba, and his entourage arrived here today.

The guests were met at the airport by Kim Ki-yong, director general of the KOREAN CENTRAL NEWS AGENCY, and Jose Ramon Rodriguez Varona, Cuban ambassador to Korea.

Chongnyon Official Says Kim Chong-il 'Healthy'

SK0704142794 Pyongyang Korean Central Television Network in Korean 1100 GMT 7 Apr 94

[Text] Ho Chong-man, responsible vice chairman of Chongnyon [the General Association of Koreans Residing in Japan] Central Standing Committee, made a speech after being invited to the general meeting of the Social Democratic Party of Japan [SDJP] Japan-DPRK Committee and to the bull session of Japan-DPRK issues on 5 April.

He first of all he notified that the dear leader Comrade Kim Chong-il is very healthy [maeu konganghasida] and that he is wisely leading the overall socialist construction.

While making a remark on the current situation surrounding the nuclear issue, he said that the 25 February agreement adopted at the DPRK-U.S. New York contact and the 15 February agreement reached between the International Atomic Energy Agency and the Republic were overturned, and that the situation on the Korean peninsula is heading toward the brink of war. He pointed out that the one wholly responsible for this is the United States.

He said that the statement by the president of the UN Security Council is another international commotion to put pressure on the republic. He emphasized that by no means can the issue be resolved through this kind of threat and pressure.

He said that the nuclear issue must be resolved in a fair way in accordance with the special position in which the republic has temporarily suspended to take effect the withdrawal from the nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty. He expressed the position that the SDPJ will play a positive role in resolving the nuclear issue in a fair way.

Technical Advances in Spring Plowing Praised

SK0704001394 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1524 GMT 6 Apr 94

[Text] Pyongyang, April 6 (KCNA)—Spring ploughing is in full swing in the Yonbaek plain.

The cooperative farms in the plain have tilled vast tracts of paddy and non-paddy fields in a few days by raising the operation rate of the tractors.

The plain, known as a granary on the West Coast, covers broad areas of Chongdan, Yonan and Paechon counties, South Hwanghae Province, the central western part of Korea.

In the preliberation days the peasants there toiled with dull hoes and wooden ploughs.

The comprehensive mechanization of agriculture, which began making a rapid development after the publication of the socialist rural theses in February 1964, has now reached the stage of completion. In Paechon County the number of the tractors increased 3.1 times, lorries 7.4 times, rice harvestors 10 times and weeding machines 15 times over the past twenty years with the constant supply of modern farm machines. The agricultural working people of the plain do nearly all categories of farm work ranging from ploughing to rice seedling plucking, rice transplanting, weeding, manuring and harvesting with machines.

Each cooperative farm in the plain has nearly one hundred technicians and experts.

Of late the dear leader Comrade Kim Chong-il sent 500 tractors and some 250 lorries to the cooperative farms in the plain so as to further consolidate the material and technical foundations of agriculture.

The rural villages of plain have turned into modern socialist rural communities good to work and live in; they hold a big share in the nation's grain production.

Last year tens of thousands of more tons of grain was produced than in the previous year in the plain.

South Korea

Minister Views Nuclear Issue, Perry's Remark

SK0704055394 Seoul KBS-1 Radio Network in Korean 0400 GMT 7 Apr 94

[Text] Foreign Minister Han Sung-chu said that it is hard to consider the North Korean nuclear issue a South-North issue because it has developed into an issue at the level of international cooperation since the UN Security Council took issued the president's statement.

While giving a briefing on the result of President Kim's recent visit to Japan and China at the Democratic Liberal Party's office today, Minister Han Sung-chu said the above and added that we should try to resolve the nuclear issue between South and North Korea through efforts between the International Atomic Energy Agency and North Korea and between the United States and North Korea.

Minister Han also said we should make efforts to remove the belief at home and abroad that the Korean peninsula is facing a crisis to prevent adverse influence upon our economy, including tourism, investment, and trade. He added that U.S. Secretary of Defense William Perry's recent remark that the United States would not hesitate to bring about war has been confirmed to be an exaggeration by reporters.

Regarding the Russian proposal for eight-party talks on the nuclear issue, Minister Han said that he basically welcomed [kibonjoguro hwanyonghanda] Russia's interest in the issue and that he would consult with countries concerned, watching their reactions.

Says Nuclear Issue 'International'

SK0704045494 Seoul YONHAP in English 0447 GMT 7 Apr 94

[Text] Seoul, April 7 (YONHAP)—Foreign Minister Han Sung-chu hinted at a small change in Seoul's initial position that linked inter-Korean exchange of envoys to resolution of North Korean nuclear problem Thursday [7 April], saying that the nuclear issue has become an international problem in the wake of the statement by the United Nations Security Council, therefore cannot be limited to a problem of confrontation between North and South Korea.

In the summits in Tokyo and Beijing, it was recognized that the nuclear problem should be resolved by three approaches—between International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) and North Korea, South and North Korea, and North Korea and the United States, Han said in an expanded party-government meeting to discuss follow-up measures to President Kim Yong-sam's visits to Japan and China.

"At present, we will wait and see North Korea's response to the Security Council statement and continue with persuasion and pressure," Han said.

"Considering the effect of the North Korean nuclear problem on tourism, investment, trade, and our overall economy, we need more efforts to wipe out the understanding that the present situation in the Korean peninsula is critical," the foreign minister said.

Han reported that Seoul and Tokyo agreed to resolve repatriation of ethnic Koreans in Sakhalin as soon as possible at the initiative of Japan. Seoul will also present comprehensive measure to the matter within the year.

Seoul trusts Tokyo to resolve the comfort women issue and Japan is currently mapping out measures, Han said.

Trade, Industry, and Energy Minister Kim Chol-su said he will hammer out details of economic cooperation in motor vehicles, aircraft, and telephone exchange agreed in the Seoul-Beijing summit.

Korea will expand joint manufacturing of automobile parts before the summer and seek advancement in completed cars next year, Kim said.

People 'Irate' Over DPRK Remarks

SK0704060894 Seoul TONG-A ILBO in Korean 7 Apr 94 p 7

["Special article" contributed by ROK Foreign Minister Han Sung-chu, entitled "How Should We View the North Korean Nuclear Issue?"—date not given]

[Text] The burden in the hearts of people hoping for a satisfactory solution to the North Korean nuclear issue, has grown with each passing day. At the same time, the people are irate over the recent reckless remarks and acts of the North Korean delegation.

The people's view of the nuclear issue is motivated by their ardent patriotic sentiment. How then, has this situation developed? How can we break through this situation?

The world's nations are making efforts to join a new post-Cold War global order comprised of liberal democracy and the market economy. However, a mere handful of nations are spurning this trend. Unfortunately, and to our dismay, North Korea is one such nation, and may in fact be a most extreme case.

What kind of choice did Pyongyang, isolated from the international order, have? While the norm would be to pursue the citizens' welfare and peace, Pyongyang chose the opposite road. In other words, it invoked the nuclear problem. Will Pyongyang's rash gamble be successful? North Korea's adherance to nuclear development will ultimately lead to Pyongyang's defeat. The North Korean economy will sour even more and North Korea will become a helpless international orphan.

Pyongyang alone denounced the statement of the UN Security Council President that the world supported.

What is our strategy in dealing with North Korea? When the North Korean nuclear problem was raised, there were some who called for procuring nuclear arms. However, we know that this road leads to mutual destruction. The road to coexistence is to remove the suspicion of North Korean nuclear development. Our choice is to persuade North Korea to realize a solution to its nuclear problem and to join an international flow which is healthy to itself.

Only this strategy will not sabotage the peace and security of the Korean peninsula in the course of pursuing a resolution of the North Korean nuclear issue. This strategy will improve North-South relations and lay a foundation for national reunification.

In view of this strategy, our immediate goals toward the North Korean nuclear issue become clear. First, we should prevent North Korea from further extraction of nuclear materials. Second, we should make efforts to place nuclear materials already produced in North Korea under the control of the International Atomic Energy Agency [IAEA]. Third, we should attempt to make North Korean nuclear facilities peaceful and safe like our energy facilities.

During the past year, these strategies and goals of ours were supported by the consensus of the people. I must frankly admit, however, that recently, public agreement on the method for achieving such aims has not been clear. The people's consensus on the solution method is more important now, with the North Korean nuclear problem pending at the UN Security Council, than ever before.

The approach we pursued during the past year for a solution to the North Korean nuclear issue, was to first resolve the problem through joint efforts by the North and the South, and to rely on international strength secondly, only when our efforts proved futile. Incentive and pressure (more commonly referred to as carrots and sticks) were the means used to resolve the nuclear problem. Up to the present, dialogue has been the preferred channel for solving the problem because, at the least, we would gain time for us to prepare the sticks. Now that the North Korean nuclear issue has been referred to the UN Security Council, a change began to take place in the of dialogue and sticks, and the importance of sticks is growing.

This means that the international aspect in resolving this issue is becoming more important. The role of the ROK and of allies including the United States and Japan was particularly important in the course of dialogue. However, the Chinese role is now growing and the attitude of Russia and nonaligned countries in the UN Security Council is also becoming important.

The number of nations looking to play a part in the nuclear issue, not to mention the nations directly concerned, is increasing. This means that we cannot effectively solve the nuclear problem by merely taking North-South relations into account. We must now be prepared for such changes in the situation.

The most important factor in our attitude for preparations is precise awareness of the essence of the problem. In other words, while keeping our strategy and goals firm, our methods and means should neither adhere to a single-track nor be hardline.

With the referral of the North Korean nuclear issue to the UN Security Council, and the apparent need for a long-range solution, we must discriminate between the essential and the marginal, and the more important from the less important. We should keep a long-term perspective on the situation, rather than going from elation to sorrow from one moment to the next over temporary developments in the situation. We should remain patient in applying means and methods and display wisdom in consolidating our internal unity.

While it is true that those who harbor deep feelings and concerns for a satisfactory solution to the North Korean nuclear problem are more likely to harbor brighter and more ardent expectations toward this, it is not reasonable to expect an immediate solution. In particular, we may be inclined to view North-South relations, which remains at its starting point, as being in a state of competition and confrontation. However, this viewpoint is not helpful for a solution to the nuclear problem. Moreover, if our feelings and self-esteem are affected by North Korea's attempts to regard a symbolic, worthless victory in confrontation with us as a great victory, we may easily be dragged into its psychological game, and the situation will become more complicated.

We are indeed in a difficult situation. However, we should recall our strategy and goals and consolidate them. It is also important for us to wait for the right opportunity by assuming flexible attitudes, means, and methods. This will only be possible when we balance principles and means, have a broad view on international affairs, and a long-term view on developments in the situation. We should cherish, above all, a sense of self-confidence and faith that time is on our side.

'Sharp Increase' Said in Mar Inter-Korean Trade

SK0604072294 Seoul YONHAP in English 0656 GMT 6 Apr 94

[Text] Seoul, April 6 (YONHAP)—Despite lingering tension on the Korean peninsula, trade between South Korea and North Korea rose sharply in March, the National Unification Board (NUB) said Wednesday.

Last month, 68 inter-Korean deals worth 21.28 million U.S. dollars were approved by NUB. This compares with 53 cases amounting to 14.77 million dollars in February.

The monthly total for March exceeded 20 million dollars for the first time since last August.

The sharp increase was caused by North Korea's expansion of imports to offset a shortage of materials.

Inter-Korean deals approved by NUB in the first quarter are forecast to rise 10.3 percent from the same period last year.

Necessity Smuggling From PRC to DPRK Claimed

SK0604040494 Seoul TONG-A ILBO in Korean 3 Apr 94 p 12

[NAEWOE Press Agency]

[Text] It was learned that smuggling in the border area between North Korea and China has increased rapidly, lately.

Major items for smuggling are China's chief daily necessities, such as training suits, fabric for Western clothes, underwear, and socks. These goods are smuggled into black markets in Pyongyang and other major cities of North Korea.

In cities bordering China, particularly in Sinuiju and Hyesan, even youth and students are involved in the smuggling. So much so that the saying "senior high school students are excellent smugglers" is very much in vogue in these cities.

The smuggling in the border area is being conducted mainly by the ethnic Koreans living in China, and it has rapidly expanded since it is possible to smuggle those Chinese articles into Pyongyang with only a small bribe. As a result, smuggled Chinese items have become so popular that almost all residents in Sinuiju and Hyesan are wearing at least one Chinese item of clothing.

Meanwhile, it has been learned that South Korean goods are among the contraband smuggled into North Korea from China. South Korean trademarks are torn off prior to being smuggled into North Korea, and training shoes and socks seem to be some of the major South Korean items being smuggled in, according to a source. Those South Korean goods sell at high prices—two or three times the price of Chinese goods—because of their good quality.

Those found to be using South Korean goods are regarded as political criminals and are sent to a camp for political criminals. Despite this regulation, the number of users of South Korean goods is ever increasing because of a shortage in daily necessities in North Korea.

Opening ROK-Japan-DPRK Sea Line Promoted

SK0604060094 Seoul MAEIL KYONGJE SINMUN in Korean 5 Apr 94 p 2

[Text] An ROK shipping company is promoting the opening of a triangular sea route connecting Pusan port and North Korea's Chongjin port through Mogi port located on the southwest coast of Japan.

According to the Korea Maritime and Port Administration, Changyong Maritime Company, an inshore shipping company engaged in shipping between the ROK and Japan, represented by Kim Chong-su, recently applied to the National Unification Board [NUB] for permission to contact North Korean residents to open a regular sea route between Japan and North Korea for transporting agricultural and sea products.

Accordingly, the NUB consulted with the Korea Maritime and Port Administration, the office mainly concerned, to determine if it is acceptable for an ROK shipping company to open a sea route between Japan and North Korea. The Korea Maritime and Port Administration has informed the NUB that it is necessary for a domestic company to open a sea route between Japan and North Korea because this would help domestic shipping companies secure shipment territory in the East Sea economic area in the future.

China, Seoul Agree To Involve DPRK in Project

SK0204122094 Seoul MAEIL KYONGJE SINMUN in Korean 1 Apr 94 p 2

[Text] The government decided to actively involve North Korea in the Yellow Sea research development project, which the ROK and China will jointly promote.

Science and Technology Minister Kim Si-chung held a news briefing with reporters on 31 March after his return from accompanying President Kim Yong-sam to Japan and China, and said: "It is necessary for North Korea to take part in the Yellow Sea research development project if it is to be carried out effectively." He said that such a position was agreed upon with Song Jian, minister of the Chinese State Science and Technology Commission.

Minister Kim said that during the talks with Minister Song Jian, he asked that China strongly advise North Korea to take part in the project. Minister Kim said that he obtained a positive response from Minister Song Jian.

PRC Reasserts Opposition to Patriot Deployment

SK0704095194 Seoul KBS-1 Radio Network in Korean 0900 GMT 7 Apr 94

[By Yi Tong-sik from Beijing]

[Text] China has reasserted its position of opposing the deployment of Patriot missiles to the ROK. In a news briefing this afternoon, Wu Jianmin, spokesman for the PRC Foreign Ministry, said that it is not considered desirable to conduct any exercises or deploy missiles that would harm the security of the Korean peninsula, and that they [United States and the ROK] should refrain from conducting an act that would heighten tensions on the peninsula.

Spokesman Wu Jianmin said that regarding the recent reports on China's envoy for Kim Il-song's 82d birthday, China would not send a high-level envoy to North Korea.

State-Run Bank To File Complaint Against BOC

SK0304054194 Seoul THE KOREA TIMES in English 3 Apr 94 p 9

[Text] The Citizens National Bank (CNB) is moving to file complaints with the Seoul district civil court against the Bank of China [BOC] for failure to pay 1.2 million dollars of letters of credit (LCs) on time.

According to the state-run CNB, the Bank of China's branch in Shenyang, China, opened LCs for a Korean exporter K.C. Sunil Co. last year and the CNB purchased trade bills from the Korean exporter in December. After buying trade bills from K.C. Sunil, a small-sized trading company which exports aluminum foil, the CNB asked the Bank of China to honor the LCs opened by the Chinese bank but was rejected. The CNB said the Bank of China refused to settle the payments, citing what it claims to be problems with shipping documents.

The incident came to light as a CNB branch manager involved in the transaction jumped to death from an apartment in southern Seoul Friday in despair of the alleged financial fraud. The CNB claimed that it is customary in international banking practices for a bank who issued LCs to honor them if there are no special problems with shipping documents. But the CNB yet failed to illustrate what was specifically wrong in the shipping documents.

Moscow: 2 Years Needed for Sakhalin Repatriation

SK0504051594 Seoul YONHAP in English 0502 GMT 5 Apr 94

[Text] Seoul, April 5 (YONHAP)—It will take at least two years for the South Korean Government to settle the repatriation of some 4,000 Koreans in Sakhalin, Radio Moscow reported Sunday.

The repatriation concerns the interests of South and North Korea as well as Russia, making the issue a difficult one to resolve, said the radio, monitored here by NAEWOE press.

Some 60,000 Koreans were taken to Sakhalin during World War II when Korea was under Japanese colonial rule, and about 4,000 first-generation members remain, according to Radio Moscow.

More than expected said they wanted to return to Korea in a recent poll, apparently attracted by their mother country's economic growth and living standards, it reported.

Seoul insists that Tokyo is responsible for bringing them back to Korea since the majority were taken forcibly by the Japanese military to work at labor camps.

But many descendants of Koreans in Sakhalin have settled down with stable careers and Seoul officials predict the Russian Government would be unwilling to let them go.

Industrial Complex Planned in Russia's Nakhodka

SK0404113594 Seoul YONHAP in English 0541 GMT 4 Apr 94

[Text] Seoul, April 4 (YONHAP)—The Korea-Russia Far East Siberia Association met Monday morning at the Korea Chamber of Commerce and Industry Building to discuss boosting cooperation.

The association is led by Maritime Province Governor Yevgeniy Nazdratenko of Russia and Chang Chi-hyok, chairman of South Korea's Kohap Group.

At the meeting, the association agreed to construct an industrial complex for Korean-Russian cooperation and an exclusive quay for South Korean ships at Vostochny port in the Nakhodka special economic zone.

The association will also recommend that the Governments of South Korea and Russia designate small special economic zones elsewhere in the Russian Far East and Siberia.

The association plans to obtain permission to establish a regular direct line between Seoul and Vladivostok and study ways to open another direct line between South Korea and Irkutsk, Novosibirsk and Kamchatka Provinces.

Meanwhile, the association decided to hold regular exhibitions of Korean goods in several Siberian and Far Eastern cities including Khabarovsk and Yuzhno Sakhalinsk as well as seminars and working-level talks between South Korean and Russian businesses.

Seoul-Khabarovsk Regular Air Service Planned

SK0404084794 Seoul YONHAP in English 0618 GMT 4 Apr 94

[Text] Seoul, April 4 (YONHAP)—Regular air service will open between Seoul and Khabarovsk, Russia, in June and Asiana Airlines will fly the route once a week, Transportation Ministry officials said Monday.

In addition, Korean Air [KAL] and Asiana will increase flights between Seoul and Singapore to 14 times and five times a week, respectively, from mid-April.

KAL will expand service between Seoul and Manila to four times a week in mid-April and Asiana will begin flying the route three times weekly in mid-May.

Korean Air's service on the Seoul-Moscow-Amsterdam route will be divided into Seoul-Moscow and Seoul-Amsterdam routes in May.

The Transportation Ministry asked the two national carriers to cooperate in selling tickets and carrying passengers on the Seoul-Manila route to avoid excess competition, but the two airlines refused and will fly the route separately.

Korean Air and Asiana will begin working-level contacts on allowing passengers to use both airlines' tickets on domestic routes and cooperating in carrying international travelers.

Officials Meet Iceland's Foreign Minister

SK0704100294 Seoul YONHAP in English 0723 GMT 7 Apr 94

[Text] Seoul, April 7 (YONHAP)—South Korean Foreign Minister Han Sung-chu met his visiting Icelandic counterpart Jon Hannibalsson Thursday and discussed the North Korean nuclear issue and other international affairs as well as ways to expand bilateral economic cooperation.

Han sought Iceland's support in Korea's hope to be a non-permanent member of the United Nations Security Council and join the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) by 1996.

Discussing economic cooperation, Hannibalsson asked Seoul to widen doors for fishery imports.

After talks with Han, Hannibalsson paid a courtesy call on President Kim Yong-sam and spoke in a seminar at the Institute of Foreign Affairs and National Security.

He will visit the inter-Korean truce village of Panmunjom, Daewoo business group headquarters, and Hyundai dockyard in Ulsan before leaving Korea on Sunday.

France Allows Imports of ROK Marine Products

SK0204040094 Seoul THE KOREA HERALD in English 2 Apr 94 p 2

[Text] The French government has recently included South Korea in a list of countries that can export marine products to France, the Foreign Ministry said yesterday. Cheap imported maritime products have been gobbling up the French market, prompting Paris to draw up a list of a handful of countries outside the European Union that can continue selling such goods. Only five countries, including Argentina and Canada, had been put on the list publicized in February.

Seoul had an existing agreement with France on fisheries exports effective until January next year but was excluded from the list, the ministry said. The French government belatedly added eight more countries, including South Korea, Thailand and Singapore, to the list carried in its gazette March 26, it said.

South Korean exports of maritime products to France, which reached $21.9 million in 1991, decreased to $14.4 million in 1992 and $10.8 million last year, according to the Seoul government's statistics.

Unification, Security Policy Coordination Council

SK0704020994 Seoul KBS-1 Radio Network in Korean 0100 GMT 7 Apr 94

[Text] The government has decided to form a Unification and Security Policy Coordination Council that will be in charge of summing up and adjusting policies on national unification and security to prevent confusion in policies on the North Korean nuclear issue.

The Unification and Security Policy Coordination Council was organized in a meeting on 7 April of security-related ministers presided over by President Kim Yong-sam. The council will hold meetings once or more a week with the vice unification minister as the chairman and the foreign and defense ministers, and the senior presidential aide on foreign affairs and security will analyze and examine the prevailing security situation and coordinate various offices' opinion. Anyone of the council members can immediately call a meeting of the council.

Proposing the organization of the Unification and Security Policy Coordination Council, President Kim Yong-sam asked security-related ministers to consult with one another more efficiently and to cope with situations promptly.

Regarding the rumor on North Korea's possession of nuclear weapons that was recently reported by some media, today's meeting came to the conclusion that there is no clear evidence to prove that North Korea possesses nuclear weapons at this point of time.

In addition, Defense Minister Yi Pyong-tae reported that there has been no particular moves by the military around the truce line or in other areas in North Korea.

Meetings 'More Productive'

SK0704032994 Seoul YONHAP in English 0317 GMT 7 Apr 94

[Text] Seoul, April 7 (YONHAP)—President Kim Yong-sam instructed Thursday [7 April] a Unification and Security Policy Coordination Council be formed comprising National Unification Board [NUB], foreign, and defense ministers, National Security Planning agency director, chief presidential secretary, and senior secretary for foreign and national security affairs to effectively and consistently cope with the North Korean nuclear issue.

The deputy prime minister, concurrently the NUB minister, should head the coordination council for a meeting more than once a week and the meeting should be immediately held at a request from any member of the council, Kim ordered in a security-related cabinet meeting on Thursday morning.

The coordination meeting will ensure more cooperative and ready response to security issues, presidential spokesman Chu Ton-sik said afterward.

At Kim's instruction, Deputy Prime Minister Yi Yong-tok is expected to detail out operations of the council.

Because the soon-to-be-formed coordination meetings will be held regularly at least more than once a week unlike the existing high-level strategic meetings headed by the president or prime minister that opens when necessary, they will prove more productive and practical, Chu said.

Depending on the significance of the agenda, President Kim will personally chair the meetings, he said.

Developments in North Korea and other major countries were discussed in Thursday's breakfast discussion, Chu said.

It was concluded at the meeting that there was no solid evidence that North Korea owns nuclear weapons at present, he said.

Defense Minister Yi Pyong-tae reported that there was no conspicuous military movement in North Korea.

South Chungchong Province Governor Resigns

SK0604023394 Seoul YONHAP in English 0221 GMT 6 Apr 94

[Text] Seoul, April 6 (YONHAP)—President Kim Yong-sam accepted on Wednesday the resignation of Pak Tae-kwon, governor of South Chungchong Province, who recently created a public controversy over his alleged pre-election campaigning.

President Kim was briefed on the details of the controversy by his Senior Secretary for Governmental Affairs, Yi Ui-kun, and accepted the resignation, an official at Chongwadae [presidential office] said.

Kim is expected to appoint a replacement for Pak soon.

Burma

Minister Leaves for GATT Meeting in Morocco

BK0504153794 Rangoon Radio Burma in Burmese 1330 GMT 5 Apr 94

[Text] A Myanmar [Burmese] delegation led by Brigadier General Abel, national planning and economic development minister, left Yangon [Rangoon] by Myanmar Airways International this evening to attend the GATT organization's ministerial meeting on the final agreement on Uruguay trade negotiations to be held in Marrakech, Morocco.

After attending the meeting, the minister, at the invitation of the Vietnamese Government, will attend the ministerial meeting on regional economic cooperation among Cambodia, China, Laos, Myanmar, Thailand, and Vietnam to be held in Hanoi. The meeting is jointly sponsored by the Asian Development Bank and the National Planning Committee.

Philippines' Foreign Minister Visiting Rangoon

Romulo Arrives, Meets Counterpart

BK0704032394 Rangoon Radio Burma in Burmese 1330 GMT 6 Apr 94

[Text] A Philippine delegation led by Mr. Roberto R. Romulo, foreign minister of the Republic of the Philippines, arrived in Yangon [Rangoon] by air at 1245 today at the invitation of U Ohn Gyaw, minister of foreign affairs.

The Philippines foreign minister, Mr. Roberto R. Romulo, and delegation called on Foreign Affairs Minister U Ohn Gyaw at the Foreign Ministry's Annex Building at 1600 and held talks on matters of bilateral interest.

Foreign Minister U Ohn Gyaw hosted a dinner in honor of the Philippines foreign minister and entourage at the Mya Yeik Nyo Royal Hotel in the evening.

Romulo Visits Forestry Minister

BK0704031494 Rangoon Radio Burma in Burmese 1330 GMT 6 Apr 94

[Text] Forestry Affairs Minister Lieutenant General Chit Swe received visiting Philippines Foreign Minister Mr. Roberto R. Romulo at the International Business Center at 1730 this evening.

At the meeting, cordial and frank talks were held on improving bilateral relations, developments in the forestry sector, technical cooperation, and cooperation in timber-based economic activities.

Finance Minister, Delegation Return

BK0504151794 Rangoon Radio Burma in Burmese 1330 GMT 5 Apr 94

[Text] A Myanmar [Burmese] delegation led by Finance and Revenue Minister Brigadier General Win Tin returned to Yangon [Rangoon] by a Thai Airways International flight after attending the Conference on Capital Management of Indochina countries held in Bangkok, Thailand, on 1 April.

KNU Denial of Talks With SLORC Reported

BK0604085394 Oslo Democratic Voice of Burma in Burmese 1430 GMT 5 Apr 94

[Text] Dear Listeners: The Democratic Voice of Burma [DVB] inquired by telephone about the proposed peace talks today between the KNU [Karen National Union] and the SLORC [State Law and Order Restoration Council] as mentioned in today's BANGKOK POST with a KNU responsible official. The KNU official responded by saying the news is untrue. Moreover, the KNU Central Committee's seven-point announcement of 29 March included the following important factors concerning the negotiations.

Since the KNU wants genuine peace, it has vowed to begin the peace process given any opportunity. The KNU has already agreed to hold separate talks with the SLORC. The KNU also proposed the talks be held at a neutral place agreed upon by both parties in order to hold free and frank talks, but the SLORC has not yet given any reply. The announcement said current events have indicated that political problems cannot be solved politically.

The KNU also urged the three following points to various persons and organizations inside and outside the country. The KNU will continue its efforts to hold separate talks with the SLORC. It will also strive relentlessly to achieve a genuine and stable peace by solving political problems politically. And it will call a general congress of all political forces from among the populace and personnel and organizations from overseas in order to solve political problems politically. The KNU believes only then genuine and stable peace and democracy can be achieved nationwide.

National Convention Plenary Session Reconvenes

Report on 5 Apr Session

BK0504124294 Rangoon Radio Burma in Burmese 0630 GMT 5 Apr 94

[Text] The plenary session of the National Convention [PSNC] resumed at 0900 this morning in the Central Meeting Hall of the president's residence compound on Ahlone Road, Yangon [Rangoon].

The plenary session was attended by Lieutenant General Myo Nyunt, chairman of the National Convention Convening Commission, and commission members; U Aung Toe, chairman of the National Convention Convening Work Committee [NCCWC], and work committee members; Brigadier General Tin Aye, chairman of the National Convention Convening Management Committee, and committee members; national convention delegates; and local and foreign correspondents.

At the plenary session, U Khin Maung Htoo from the public service personnel delegate group acted as alternate chairperson while Dr. Than Nyunt; U Saw Philip, alias U Philip San; U San Tha Aung; U Mahn Ohn Maung; U Kan Nyunt; U Soe Maung; U Tin Maung; and U Sai Aung Htun acted as members of the Panel of Chairmen, while U Khin Maung Myint, director general of the NCCWC Office and the official in charge of the meetings, acted as secretary.

First, the secretary of the meeting announced the validity of the session as 645 out of 693 delegates attended. According to the agenda, the Panel of Chairmen of the National Convention presented a review and analysis of the suggestions submitted by the delegate groups at the PSNC to prescribe the fundamental principles related to the state, state structure, and head of state chapters which will be included in drawing up the constitution. Initially, Alternate U Khin Maung Htoo presented the review and analysis on the state chapter and Dr. Than Nyunt, member of the Panel of Chairmen, later continued the review and analysis on the same chapter. The plenary session recessed at 1035. The afternoon session of the PSNC is currently in progress at the Central Meeting Hall of the president's residence compound on Ahlone Road, Yangon.

Chairmen Present Analysis Report

BK0704102994 Rangoon Radio Burma in Burmese 0630 GMT 7 Apr 94

[Text] The National Convention Plenary Session continued at 0900 this morning in the Central Meeting Hall of the President's Residence compound on Ahlone Road, Yangon [Rangoon].

The plenary session was attended by Lieutenant General Myo Nyunt, chairman of the National Convention Convening Commission, and commission members; U Aung Toe, chairman of the National Convention Convening Work Committee [NCCWC], and work committee members; Brigadier General Tin Aye, chairman of the National Convention Convening Management Committee, and committee members; national convention delegates; and local and foreign correspondents.

At the plenary session, Dr. Than Nyunt, NCCWC member, acted as alternate chairperson while U Saw Philip alias U Philip San, U San Tha Aung, U Mahn Ohn Maung, U Kan Nyunt, U Soe Maung, U Tin Maung, U Khin Maung Htoo, and U Sai Aung Htun acted as members of the Panel of Chairmen, and U Khin Maung Myint, director general of the NCCWC Office and the official in charge of meetings, acted as secretary of the meeting.

First, the secretary of the meeting announced the validity of the session as 641 out of 693 delegates attended the meeting. According to the agenda, the Panel of Chairmen of the National Convention presented the review and analysis of the suggestions submitted by the delegate groups to prescribe the fundamental principles related to the state, state structure, and head of state chapters that will be included in drawing up the constitution. Alternate Chairperson Dr. Than Nyunt, Panel of Chairmen Members U Saw Philip alias U Philip San, U San Tha Aung, and U Mahn Ohn Maung presented the review and analysis on the head of state chapter. The plenary session recessed at 1100. The afternoon session of the National Convention Plenary Session is in progress at the Central Meeting Hall of the President's Residence compound on Ahlone Road, Yangon.

Brunei, Malaysia & Singapore

Malaysia

UK Minister Ends Three-Day Official Visit

BK0704161394 Kuala Lumpur Radio Malaysia Network in English 1300 GMT 7 Apr 94

[Text] British Secretary of State for Education John Patten says he sensed a great desire on the part of Malaysia and Britain to bring business back on normal footing as soon as possible. He said this was his impression from meetings with various ministers and British businessmen during his three-day visit to Malaysia which ended today. He was anxious that the flow of investment from the United Kingdom into Malaysia continues because he thinks that it would be a benefit to both countries. Patten, the highest-ranking official to visit Malaysia since the Malaysian Government slapped a ban on awarding government projects to British companies in February. Patten said that once he returned home, he would try his best to give a picture that relations between the two countries were getting better again and that investment opportunities in Malaysia were too good for British investors to miss.

Vote of G-15 Sought Against Wage-Trade Proposal

BK0704154794 Kuala Lumpur Radio Malaysia Network in English 1300 GMT 7 Apr 94

[Text] Malaysia hopes to get the support of other G-15 [Group of 15] and South countries to oppose a wage-trade link proposal with a view to setting the minimum global wage standards at the upcoming General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade, GATT, meeting in Marrakesh, Morocco. Foreign Minister Datuk Abdullah Haji Ahmad Badawi said he was hopeful that the G-15 and South countries could meet prior to the 15 April GATT meeting to establish a common stand against the proposal by the U.S. and France. The Uruguay round trade accord is to be signed by 120 countries at the meeting next week. The U.S. and France were proposing that a wage-trade link be discussed at the meeting, setting in motion a debate on the proposed minimum global wage standards. Datuk Abdullah was speaking to reporters after meeting China's vice minister for foreign affairs, Tang Jianxuan, at Wisma Putera [Ministry of Foreign Affairs] in Kuala Lumpur. The four-man delegation arrived on Tuesday for a three-day visit to Kuala Lumpur and Melaka.

Reiterating that linking workers' rights with trade was unjustified, he hoped the G-15 along with other South countries would be united in opposing the link. The G-15 needed to discuss and coordinate support from all countries of the South, adding that the proposal would have a serious impact on the economies of the developing countries.

Thai Helicopter Carrier Purchase No 'Threat'

BK0504134894 Kuala Lumpur Radio Malaysia Network in English 1300 GMT 5 Apr 94

[Text] Malaysia does not consider as a security threat to the country the Royal Thai Navy's plan to purchase a helicopter carrier. This was stated by Chief of Navy Vice Admiral Datuk Sri Mohamed Sharif Ishak. He said any development of the armed forces of the ASEAN countries should not be considered as a threat because it could contribute to regional defense capability. He even revealed that the stronger the forces the better the grouping. He was speaking at a maritime security forum of the Malaysian Institute of Maritime Affairs in Kuala Lumpur.

Meanwhile, visiting Rear Admiral Thammanun Nathirot of the Royal Thai Navy said Thailand has no plans to buy an aircraft carrier or an attack warship, but will buy a helicopter carrier to provide support for its sea defense system.

Joint Sea Exercise With Thai Navy Begins 4 Apr

BK0604104094 Kuala Lumpur NEW STRAITS TIMES in English 5 Apr 94 p 7

[Text] Langkawi, Mon—The navies and marine police units of Malaysia and Thailand today began a five-day joint training exercise with the main objective of ironing out communication difficulties.

The manoeuvres, the 21st in the Seaex Thamal series, will take place off Langkawi in Malaysia and Satun and Phuket Island in Thailand.

About 300 personnel and eight vessels—four from each country—are taking part in the exercise launched by Malaysian Internal Security and Public Order director Ghazali Yaacob at the Bukit Malut Marine police base. The joint forces will also test their co-operation in patrolling formation, enforcement and search-and-rescue operations, as well as technical matters.

Central Bank Governor on Foreign Exchange Loss

BK0204123594 Kuala Lumpur NEW STRAITS TIMES in English 1 Apr 94 p 1

[By Shaik Osman Majid]

[Text] Kuala Lumpur, Thurs—Bank Negara [Central Bank] Governor Tan Sri Jaffar Hussein today admitted mistakes were made by the Central Bank in foreign exchange dealings that resulted in a loss of RM [Ringgit Malaysia] 5.7 billion over the past year.

"For the losses I take full responsibility. It is the most honourable thing to do," he said in a press conference here after presenting the Bank Negara Annual Report 1993.

Asked if in accepting responsibility he will resign Jaffar said: "If there is a move in that direction, you (the media) will be the third to know after the Prime Minister and the Finance Minister."

He also said: "Others down the line will also be held accountable, some have already resigned."

Asked to explain the absence of Nor Mohamed Yakcop, adviser and the man in charge of the foreign exchange dealings, at this year's press conference, Jaffar said: "He has gone on long leave."

The Governor made it clear that "there was no fraud" in the loss suffered by the Central Bank.

Despite a total loss of RM6.4 billion, including a loss of RM700 million in its ordinary operations, the Central Bank's balance sheet remained strong and the national financial strength was not affected.

Total assets of the Central Bank increased by 68 per cent to exceed, for the first time, RM100 billion at the end of 1993.

Foreign reserves increased sharply over the last year to RM76.4 billion which is sufficient to finance about eight months of retained imports and 1 ½ times the size of the country's external debt.

Equally impressive was the growth of the economy. Gross Domestic Product [GDP] grew by 8.5 per cent which means an average growth rate of almost nine per cent for the last six years.

The buoyant growth was achieved on the back of an inflation rate below four per cent.

The Consumer Price Index [CPI] moderated to 3.6 per cent, compared to 4.7 per cent in 1992.

The forecast for 1994 is a high 8.4 per cent GDP growth provided costs, especially wages, can be controlled.

He said the Central Bank took forward positions in currencies like the US dollar, deutschmark, and the yen. The rates, however, did not move as anticipated by the bank, causing it to suffer losses.

This is the second year the Central Bank has incurred losses in the foreign exchange market. It lost RM9 billion in 1992 though it was described as "loss on paper".

"The Central Bank has to deal in foreign exchange because of the need to maintain liquidity in other currencies for trade purposes,' he said.

"In hindsight it is apparent that we made the wrong decisions (buying into forward or long-term positions) but we had to act the way we did. If we did not take any action the loss might have been even more than RM5.7 billion.

"The loss will be written off against the Central Bank's future profits," he said, admitting that "it would take time."

The Central Bank will continue to deal in foreign exchange but "only at spot prices" that is buying and selling as and when the need for that particular currency arises.

Jaffar said the prospect of strong economic growth this year was bright.

If Malaysian businessmen continue to maintain and hopefully improve their competitive edge and consumers spend wisely Malaysians could easily look forward to yet another year of rapid growth exceeding eight per cent," Jaffar said in his introductory remarks.

Despite the inflationary pressures of the first month of 1994 when seasonal and festive consumer spending prodded the CPI by four per cent, Jaffar said the Government will put into place measures to ensure that inflation does not move beyond four per cent this year.

The manufacturing sector has been the main source of economic growth for the past seven years, contributing no less than 30.1 per cent to the GDP in 1993. Indeed it will continue to be the lynchpin of the economy.

The Federal Government achieved a remarkable financial performance last year when it recorded its first overall budget surplus since 1960.

The local stock market saw a record-breaking performance in terms of prices, turnover and market capitalisation.

Trading on the Kuala Stock Exchange [KLSE] in 1593 alone exceeded the amount of total trade undertaken during the past 20 years in terms of both turnover (107.8 billion units) and value (RM387.3 billion). From 1973 to 1992, the total volume recorded on the KLSE was a mere 82 million units valued at RM197 million.

In 1993, the KLSE emerged as the largest bourse in Asean and the fourth largest in Asia in terms of market capitalisation after Tokyo, Osaka and Hong Kong.

The bank system displayed the best performance on record last year, with pre-tax profit of the banks reaching almost RM4 billion.

Minister on Central Bank Losses, Human Rights

BK0504101394 Kuala Lumpur Voice of Malaysia in English 0800 GMT 5 Apr 94

[Text] Deputy Prime Minister Datuk Sri Anwar Ibrahim says that Malaysia's sound economy was unshaken by losses incurred by Bank Negara [Central Bank] in its foreign exchange [forex] dealings. He said that Malaysia's reserves were very strong and that the country's assets which exceed 100 billion ringgit are very huge in the context of gross domestic product. The latest figure which showed 76 billion ringgit reserves was quite progressive. He pointed out that even if the Central Bank did not trade, the country would still have lost money simply because of the appreciating ringgit on the back of the robust economy. Datuk Sri Anwar, who is also finance minister, was responding to questions by Swedish journalists accompanying Swedish Prime Minister Carl Bildt on a three-day visit to Malaysia. The deputy prime minister said that he had in 1992 ordered Bank Negara cease trading in the forex market after learning that the Central Bank had been incurring losses. Describing the forex losses of 9 billion ringgit in 1992 and 5.7 billion ringgit last year by Bank Negara as a serious error in judgment, he said he had instructed the Central Bank at that time not to excessively trade in reserves. He said that the Finance Ministry became aware of the losses about one and a half years ago.

The Swedish journalists also posed several questions ranging from Malaysia-Sweden bilateral relations to human rights. Datuk Sri Anwar said Malaysia did not condone abuse of human rights by any country or government. But at the same time, Malaysia does not expect the Western countries to insist that certain countries should observe their rules. He said Western countries should learn to understand and appreciate the situation in certain countries in the East, especially Asia. It was true to some extent that developed countries in the West had a lot to offer developing countries in the East, but they should also learn to accept and respect the values and norms of the countries in the East, particularly in Asia.

Cambodia

General Says KR Attacking From Thai Territory

BK0604131994 Hong Kong AFP in English 1243 GMT 6 Apr 94

[Text] Pailin, Cambodia, April 6 (AFP)—Khmer Rouge [KR] guerrillas have launched an attack from Thai territory on Cambodian Government troops stationed along the border to the west of the rebel faction's former Pailin headquarters, a government general said Wednesday.

"We were on the border when they came in," General Houl Savoan of the 5th Military Region said. The general said a 40 strong group of Khmer Rouge, backed by a tank, attacked his men Monday. "But the Khmer Rouge were repelled back into Thai territory," he said.

The general, however, later admitted that the government forces had pulled back from the area and said journalists could not visit a former Khmer Rouge radio station because the area was "insecure."

A group of some 120 Khmer Rouge attacked government troops occupying Sala Krau, a former guerrilla jungle base around 12 kilometers (7.5 miles) north of Pailin, Saturday, he said. The Khmer Rouge lost six men in the ensuing firefight while the government had one soldier dead and three wounded, he said.

Khmer Rouge radio, broadcasting from a new clandestine location, claimed their fighters killed 42 government soldiers Saturday in clashes in Sala Krau and adjacent areas.

Worn-out looking government soldiers, returning from jungle around Sala Krau, said there was relentless fighting every day. But despite these ongoing clashes, government officers rebutted Khmer Rouge claims that they had walked into a trap by seizing Pailin. They claimed the guerrillas' hit and run attacks did not jeopardise the government's hold on the resource rich region.

An AFP photographer saw soldiers stacking some of what Hul Savoan estimated to be around 100 tonnes of Khmer Rouge ammunition recently discovered by the government forces.

Sihanouk's Arrival Previewed, Health Viewed

BK0704095594 Hong Kong AFP in English 0927 GMT 7 Apr 94

[By Sheri Prasso]

[Text] Phnom Penh, April 7 (AFP)—Cambodia's ailing King Norodom Sihanouk returns here Friday with what observers expect will be a new plan for talks with the Khmer Rouge, but the guerrilla's recent defeats on the battlefield give the government little incentive to negotiate.

The Khmer Rouge lost their ruby- and timber-rich headquarters of Pailin in a government offensive just over two weeks ago, and the government's call for a total ceasefire before roundtable talks can be held remains in force.

"If we want to have talks now, talks must be in a different mood," co-Premier Prince Norodom Ranariddh said this week. "Now the Khmer Rouge have nothing."

The Khmer Rouge's public face, Khieu Samphan, has requested an audience with the king and is expected to arrive in the Cambodian capital within the next few days, Royal Palace officials confirmed.

His presence, however, is not likely to lead to talks unless he is willing to offer a surrender, that is if Prince Ranariddh and his co-Premier Hun Sen can maintain their strong positions militarily and politically.

But the 71-year-old king has cancer, and wants to be remembered as the uniting force of a divided Cambodia after he dies, according to diplomats and observers.

The cancer has spread to his bone marrow and King Sihanouk has been undergoing chemotherapy in a Beijing hospital. But he is returning to spend about a month in Cambodia in order to celebrate Khmer New Year with his compatriots on April 13-15.

Diplomats as well as Cambodian Government officials had believed that King Sihanouk was likely to die by mid-1994 and would return to Cambodia for his final days.

But recent reports from the Royal Palace say the king's cancer has gone into remission. However, they warn of a possible stroke from arteriosclerosis, or hardening of the arteries.

His arrival at Pochentong Airport on Friday will be shrouded in secrecy. Prince Ranariddh, Hun Sen and acting head of state Chea Sim will be the only people allowed to greet him upon his arrival, Royal Palace officials said.

The diplomatic corps, brass band, lines of bowing Cambodian officials and throngs of journalists who normally greet King Sihanouk at the airport have been told they are not invited.

Even the crowds of flag-waving schoolchildren who are normally trotted out to the roadside to cheer his speeding motorcade have been told not to come.

King Sihanouk has gone bald due to months of chemotherapy, and palace officials do not want him photographed. Whether he will walk of his own accord off his plane or be carried off, will be left to speculators or spies to say.

A special room has been set up at Calmette Hospital in case he needs emergency medical attention, and French doctors were asked to disinfect his room to cut down on the possibility of infection, [word indistinct] sources said.

The king will only be able to receive visitors for one hour each morning and one hour each afternoon during his stay.

The diplomatic corps hopes for at least one window of opportunity, as do chosen "representatives of the people" who traditionally ask the king to solve their problems during the Khmer New Year.

Paper Discusses Recent National Assembly Session

BK0704101194 Phnom Penh REAKSMEI KAMPUCHEA in Cambodian 7 Apr 94 pp 1, 2

[Text] The second plenary session of the National Assembly's first legislature was opened on the morning of 5 April 1994 and closed in the same morning because it did not agree on two of the four items on the agenda proposed by the National Assembly's Standing Committee.

The four items on the agenda of the Assembly meeting are: 1/ the message from Cambodia's king; 2/ the report by the National Assembly's Standing Committee; 3/ the discussion and decision on the invalidation of the status of the people's representatives and the validity of new assembly members; and 4/ other matters.

Before the opening of the session, the third item attracted the most attention because it was expected that the Assembly would discuss the cases of 17 members who will leave the assembly as they are taking up public positions which are incompatible with the role of assembly members. The assembly was also expected to examine the validity of 17 new members. Due to differences in the views concerning the wording of the agenda, the third item was withdrawn. This difference of views stemmed from the words "invalidity of assembly members' status" which many members thought improper, as the wording seems to look down on those who are leaving the assembly. Objection was also raised concerning the fourth item over the wording "other matters." A large number of assembly members demanded to know precisely what these matters are.

There were two conflicting views on the third and fourth items. A minority view held that the wording can be changed; however, the majority objected. This objection led to the withdrawal of items three and four and the meeting closed cheerlessly after listening to the king's message and the report by the National Assembly's Standing Committee.

It is worth noting that Prince Krompreah Norodom Ranariddh, first prime minister, attended this session but Samdech Hun Sen, second prime minister, did not, for health reasons.

His Excellency Loy Simchheang, acting National Assembly chairman, said at this meeting that it was almost the day the meeting was due to open and yet the National Assembly's Standing Committee seemed to have found nothing of importance to include in the agenda...[ellipsis as published]

This was probably why this session's agenda is so short.

Earlier, it was expected that the immigration law, the new investment law, the press law, the bill on the Supreme Council of Judges, the 1994 state plan ... [ellipsis as published] would also be discussed at this session.

However, what was planned and what some personalities have disclosed were not raised in the agenda of the second National Assembly's plenary session following a three-month recess. Some Assembly officials said that the fact that the session does not have any bills for the National Assembly to debate and decide upon was due to the delay in forwarding those bills from the government to the National Assembly's Standing Committee so that these can be included in the agenda.

Analysts say that there seemed to be something hidden in this movement to object to the third item concerning the switching of Assembly members.

An assembly member from FUNCINPEC [National United Front for an Independent, Neutral, Peaceful, and Cooperative Cambodia] is of the opinion that this switching of Assembly members "is complex and that there is certainly no way out." However, what people did not expect was the fact that this issue has not even been resolved at its agenda stage.

Hun Sen Bodyguard Said Killed in Kompong Cham

BK0704082594 Phnom Penh REAKSMEI KAMPUCHEA in Cambodian 7 Apr 94 pp 1, 5

[Text] According to a reliable source, a group of 12 unidentified persons opened fire on Nim Kimsam, killing him and wounding Hun Mav as the two were riding on a motorcycle.

The killing took place in Prek Tuok village, Khporp Ta Nguon commune, in Kompong Cham Province's Stoeng Trang District.

According to a report by Kompong Cham provincial officials, Nim Kimsam was en route to his home town to attend his younger sister's wedding.

No motive for the killing has been provided or affirmed by any source. Some sources say that Nim Kimsam was an Interior Ministry bodyguard—part of Samdech Hun Sen's bodyguard group—and that he was gunned down with AK rifles by the unidentified group of people while riding a motorcycle to visit friends in his hometown.

It has not yet been determined if Nim Kimsam's murder was motivated by revenge or something else.

The authorities are investigating to unmask the murderers and forward the files to the tribunal.

Ranariddh, Hun Sen Urge KR Soldiers To Defect

BK0604153694 Phnom Penh National Radio of Cambodia Network in Cambodian 1300 GMT 6 Apr 94

["Appeal of the Royal Government of Cambodia to the officers, the rank and file, and the compatriots living under the temporary control of the Khmer Rouge" [KR] dated 6 April—recorded]

[Text] The Pailin region has a major economic, social, and cultural position in the Kingdom of Cambodia. The recalcitrant Khmer Rouge leaders still continue to occupy illegally this region and continue to cause considerable damage to national assets even after our country had entered the stage of national reconciliation, unity, and peace; after our most venerated monarch, His Majesty Norodom Sihanouk Varman, had ascended the throne to provide the coolest shade for all of us, his Cambodian subjects; and after the Royal Government of Cambodia [RGC] had come to power to lead and govern the nation in full legitimacy. Thus, with the noble intention of preserving peace and maintaining security for the people and preserving national unity and national reconciliation, the Khmer Royal Armed Forces [KRAF] made monumental efforts and braved all kinds of difficulties in entering and completely capturing the Pailin region on 19 March 1994.

With a high sense of responsibility toward the destiny of all Cambodians, the RGC would like to make another appeal to the officers, the rank and file, and the compatriots living under the temporary control of the Khmer Rouge. The brothers are asked to waste no time in finding all means to return to the national community and join the great family of Cambodians.

The RGC always has the fate and destiny of all of you at heart as already emphasized in previous appeals, especially in the statement made by the RGC on 25 March 1994.

1. As a matter of fact, the officers, noncommissioned officers, and men still serving in the ranks of the Khmer Rouge are urged to hurry up and present themselves before the KRAF and the competent authorities in the region. You will be accorded all due attention and your rights, privileges, grades, and duties will be assured in the same way as has been done by the RGC toward the thousands of former Khmer Rouge officers, noncommissioned officers, and men who have already awakened to the call and joined the national community and the RGC.

2. As for the civilians who have been forcibly taken along by Khmer Rouge leaders, they should hurry up and liberate themselves from the claws of the Khmer Rouge by immediately contacting the KRAF and the competent authorities protecting the region. You will be welcomed and given all necessary assistance by the RGC and you will receive land and houses in accordance with the law.

3. As far as the compatriots who take temporary refuge in Thailand are concerned, the RGC will continue to contact and negotiate with the representatives of the Thai Government in order to bring them back to our sacred [illegible]orian land with the assistance of various international organizations. Concerning the repatriation of these refugees, the RGC's good-will and sincere stance is that the repatriation should proceed through a negotiation between our RGC and the government of the country concerned on the basis of humanitarian principles, voluntariness, noncoercion, and respect for the right of the concerned brothers to make a choice. Any brothers who wish to remain in Pailin or to go to any other fully safe regions will be allowed to do so with the assistance of the RGC.

The RGC is confident that the country concerned will do its best to help and support this righteous cause by respecting Cambodia's independence, sovereignty, and territorial integrity and refrain from interfering in each other's internal affairs as stipulated in the 23 October 1991 Paris agreement.

[Signed] Prince Krompreah Norodom Ranaridddh, first prime minister
Samdech Hun Sen, second prime minister
[Dated] 6 April 1994, Phnom Penh

Ranariddh's Remarks on Pol Pot Fleeing Rejected

BK0704011094 (Clandestine) Voice of the Great National Union Front of Cambodia in Cambodian 2330 GMT 6 Apr 94

["Rejection of the Base and Stinking Lies by Ranariddh, Who is Excrement Underneath the House" issued in Phnom Penh on 6 April—read by announcer]

[Text] 1. Ranariddh—who is excrement underneath the house, a U.S. and French puppet, and a puppet of communist Vietnam's puppets—has said there is a picture of Pol Pot on a nice road in Thailand accompanied by a car and a convoy of trucks. The shit Ranariddh has said this shows Pol Pot escaping from Pailin when the two-headed government's forces entered Pailin. The shit Ranariddh has also said that he is not going to show this picture; he will keep it to himself. Liar! Stinking shit!

2. This is really shit. He is really a U.S. and French puppet; he is really a puppet of communist Vietnam's puppets. He says whatever his masters order him to say.

In France recently, the chief of the French espionage agency (Coedes) and the American CIA brainwashed the shit Ranariddh into opposing King Sihanouk and the five-point plan for national reconciliation, continuing to fight the Khmer Rouge, and keeping this up. France and the United States say they will think about letting Ranariddh be a lecturer in France, that France and the United States will help him become king, and that France and the United States will not let Prince Sihakmoni reign. France and the United States have made efforts to spread propaganda about fighting against the

Khmer Rouge, Pol Pot, and Thailand. They say: Keep fighting to thwart King Norodom Sihanouk's national reconciliation plan, especially ahead of and during the king's return to Phnom Penh.

3. Who does not know that the shit Ranariddh is afraid of the puppets Hun Sen, Chea Sim, and Sar Kheng, as if they were tigers? Who does not know that the shit Ranariddh is a lackey of the United States and France? Who does not know that Ranariddh's soldiers were created by the United States and are U.S. mercenaries who serve the United States like dogs in killing the Cambodian nation and people? Who does not know that the shit Ranariddh is killing FUNCINPEC [National United Front for an Independent, Neutral, Peaceful, and Cooperative Cambodia] and crawls at the feet of communist Vietnam's puppets? Who does not know that the shit Ranariddh is corrupt and has taken millions of dollars in bribes; sold himself and the nation; killed the people; and is serving the United States, France, foreigners, and evil wealthy people? Who does not know that the people and masses in Phnom Penh—even children—never refer to Ranariddh as prince; he is usually called the shit Ranariddh, the shit Ranariddh, the shit Ranariddh [repetition as heard], because he stinks even against the wind. People detest him almost to the point of vomiting.

As for the whereabouts and movements of Pol Pot, he is not going anywhere. He always remains on Cambodian territory. He can be found in Kampot, Phnum Kamchay, Phnum Kravanh, Kompong Speu, Kratie, Mondolkiri, Ratanakiri, Stung Treng, Kompong Cham, Kandal, Phnom Penh, Pursat, Battambang, Kompong Chhnang, Siem Reap, Kompong Thom, Preah Vihear, Takeo, Prey Veng, and Svay Rieng. His houses are in Rumchang and Ampil. If the shit Ranariddh wants to meet Pol Pot, he can go to Rumchang and Ampil. Pol Pot will not meet Ranariddh, though, because Ranariddh really stinks.

[Dated] 6 April 1994; 1, 2, 3, Boeng Reang, Phnom Penh

[Signed] (Sovan Kouteapei)

Fighting North of Pailin on 5 Apr Reported

BK0704074094 (Clandestine) Voice of the Great National Union Front of Cambodia in Cambodian 2330 GMT 6 Apr 94

[Text] A regiment of the invading troops of the communist Vietnamese puppets and the two-headed government—backed by five tanks, artillery, and multiple rocket batteries—launched an attack on 5 April to break through our forces surrounding them in Sala Krau. The enemy was completely routed. Here is the preliminary result: We killed 15 soldiers and wounded a large number. Furthermore, we smashed and killed nine division and regimental officers, including a deputy to Prum Moranak, a tank commander, and three infantry commanders. We seized some weapons and war materiel.

Attacks on Train, Route 5, Railway Line Reported

BK0704073294 (Clandestine) Voice of the Great National Union Front of Cambodia in Cambodian 2330 GMT 6 Apr 94

[Excerpts] [passage omitted] A train belonging to the communist Vietnamese puppets carrying soldiers and war materiel from Pursat to Battambang ran over the people's mines west of Svay Don Kev on 4 April and derailed. Some of the soldiers on the train were killed or wounded. One locomotive was completely destroyed. [passage omitted]

On 5 April, the people and the National Army of Democratic Kampuchea [NADK] cooperated to cut a segment of Route 5 and three segments of the railroad track totaling 50 meters. Two motorcycles belonging to Division 95 and the police were also seized and a soldier from Division 95 was captured. These stretches of Route 5 and the railway line west and east of Moung market are still completely under the control of the people and the NADK.

Indonesia

Summit Meeting With Netherlands Continues

Lubbers on Bilateral Relations

BR0604151594 Amsterdam HET FINANCIEELE DAGBLAD in Dutch 6 Apr 94 p 9

[Unattributed report: "Lubbers: 'Relationship With Jakarta Now Mature'"]

[Text] "The new relationship between the Netherlands and Indonesia, which is no longer based on development aid, is better than the one wich existed before 1992." This was stated by Prime Minister Lubbers in Jakarta last Tuesday, after a meeting with President Suharto. "A development relation can be useful at a specific point in time," Lubbers said, "but at a certain moment, it is better to renounce this relation."

During his talks with Suharto, it became clear to Lubbers that relations between both countries had become more mature and better since Indonesia announced in 1992 that it no longer wanted development aid from the Netherlands. Relations between both countries are now based rather on various forms of cooperation which are profitable to both countries.

According to the prime minister, providing development aid is a temporary phase in a relationship, which must be abandoned at a certain moment. He found it an interesting idea that the Indonesian Government is presently considering to establish development relations with some African countries. These countries might, for instance, learn from the way in which Indonesia handled birth control.

Lubbers also announced that he welcomed the Indonesian Government's wish that Queen Beatrix would pay a state visit to the country. The prime minister refused to elaborate on the question whether such a visit should take place in 1995. During that year, Indonesia will celebrate the fiftieth anniversary of the proclamation of the independent republic. Netherlands India veterans claim, however, that the fiftieth anniversary should not be celebrated before 1999, because the formal transfer of sovereignty did not occur until 1949.

Netherlands Shortens Visit

BK0604152794 Jakarta Radio Republik Indonesia Network in Indonesian 1500 GMT 6 Apr 94

[Text] Netherlands Prime Minister Ruud Lubbers cut short his visit and left Jakarta for home this evening. The state guest earlier paid a farewell call on President and Mrs. Suharto before returning home. Minister and State Secretary Murdiono said Prime Minister Lubbers was originally scheduled to have a four-day stay in Indonesia. Lubbers had earlier been scheduled to meet tomorrow morning with Hartarto, coordinating minister for industry and trade; Saleh Afiff, coordinating minister for economy, finance, and development supervision; and Wardiman Joyonegoro, minister of education and culture.

Early Departure Explained

BK0704053694 Jakarta ANTARA in English 1842 GMT 6 Apr 94

[Text] Jakarta, Apr 6 (ANTARA)—Dutch Foreign Minister P.H. Kooijmans stated that the early return of the visiting Prime Minister Ruud Lubbers was caused by an emerging conflict in the country's parliament.

"It has nothing to do with Indonesia. Our country is busy with political campaigns in the run up to a general election. Prime Minister Lubbers' return before scheduled time was due to a conflict between two members of parliament of our country's two coalition parties," he told the press here Wednesday.

He was speaking to reporters after signing—together with Indonesian Foreign Minister Ali Alatas—a memorandum of understanding on the improvement and protection over investments between Indonesia and the Netherlands.

The conflict, he said, is very sensitive as it involves two ministers, members of the two coalition parties: Democratic Christian Party and Labour Party. The two ministers took an issue of office and attorney problems.

"As the issue is very important, the Dutch parliament's lower house asked the visiting Prime Minister Lubbers to return early to his country. We regret his (Lubbers) returning home before the schedule time," said Kooijmans who will continue his visit as scheduled until Thursday afternoon.

Prime Minister Lubbers arrived here on Monday for a four-day official visit until Thursday. He left Jakarta on Wednesday afternoon after visiting the ship industry, PT [Company Limited] Pal in Surabaya and attending the ground breaking ceremony for the development of Philip Ralins plant in the East Java capital city.

He said, however, that although Prime Minister Lubbers cut short his visit to Indonesia, the Dutch leader's visit is very important and the two countries' bilateral relations are improving.

Minister Kooijmans was scheduled to hold meetings with 15 non-governmental organizations [NGO's] in Jakarta's Dutch Embassy on Thursday.

When asked by reporters on the purpose of his meeting with the NGOs, he said that such a meeting has become his tradition every time he make a visit to foreign countries.

Ali Alatas-Kooijmans Talks Noted

BK0704104394 Jakarta Radio Republik Indonesia Network in Indonesian 0000 GMT 7 Apr 94

[Text] Foreign Minister Ali Alatas and his Netherlands counterpart held talks on the human rights issue during the latter's visit to Indonesia. The Netherlands foreign minister, Kooijmans, was accompanying Premier Ruud Lubbers on a state visit to Indonesia.

Ali Alatas told newsmen in Surabaya, East Java, yesterday that he explained to Kooijmans about various problems in the country, including the human rights and East Timor issues and efforts to resolve them.

On bilateral cooperation, Ali Alatas reiterated that economic ties between Indonesia and the Netherlands have proceeded smoothly, while the private sector from the two countries is involved in matters pertaining to the transfer of technology.

Foreign Banks Agree To Extend Standby Loan

BK0604143694 Jakarta THE INDONESIA TIMES in English 30 Mar 94 p 3

[Text] Jakarta—A consortium of 65 major banks has agreed to extend a standby loan of around U.S. $500 million to Bank Indonesia (Central Bank).

The agreement on the loan syndication was signed Monday at the headquarters of Dresdner Bank in Frankfurt, the Central Bank announced here Monday.

Paul Sutopo, the managing director of Bank Indonesia, said that the large number of participants in the loan syndication reflected the confidence of the international banking community in Indonesia.

He said that the bank had originally planned to raise only $400 million from the loan syndicate, but the syndication was oversubscribed to reach $500 million due to the larger-than expected response.

"The number of banks in the loan syndication is the highest so far. We initially anticipated only around 40 participants," he said.

The Central Banks press statement said members of the loan syndication, which was arranged by Chase Manhattan Asia Ltd., the Industrial Bank of Japan, Banque National de Paris, Bank of Tokyo, the Long-Term Credit Bank (LTCB), and Dresdner, included Asian banks such as Bank Bumiputera of Malaysia.

It said that the loan will mature in seven years and that the interest will be paid annually. In the first two years, the interest rate will be a 5 [as published] of a percent above the London Inter-bank Offered Rate, and ⅜ [as published] above thereafter.

The money is intended for use as standby reserves and will be drawn only when needed. Disbursement of the loan will be based on five days of prior notice.

The Indonesian Government annually seeks standby loans outside its creditor group—the Consultative Group on Indonesia—to maintain its contingency foreign exchange reserves minimally at $2 billion.

The standby loans, besides serving as contingency reserves in addition to the foreign and gold reserves held by Bank Indonesia to safeguard the balance of payments, usually are also used for counterpart financing for government projects funded with export credits.

Locally Made Aircraft Delivered to Air Force

BK0604130494 Jakarta REPUBLIKA in Indonesian 26 Mar 94 p 3

[Text] Bandung, REPUBLIKA—The Nusantara Aircraft Industry Company Limited [PT IPTN] has handed over another CN-235 aircraft to the Indonesian Air Force. The CN-235 aircraft manufactured by PT IPTN was the fourth of the six aircraft ordered by the Department of Defense and Security of the Republic of Indonesia as part of a contract for the realization of its third strategic plan.

A simple transfer ceremony was held at a hangar of the PT IPTN Production Area II in Bandung on Friday (25 March). The transfer documents were signed by Ir. [academic title] Hari Laksono representing the president director of PT IPTN and Major General I Made Sadha A.R., master of economics, director general for services of the Department of Defense and Security, who represented the commander of the Armed Forces of the Republic of Indonesia [ABRI]. The Department of Defense and Security will later hand over the aircraft to the Indonesian Air Force. The documents were also signed by Commodore Sugiarto, deputy chief of the Air Force for personnel affairs.

The transfer is part of the contract for the realization of the third strategic plan, which was signed by the minister of state for research and technology and concurrently president director of PT IPTN and the minister of defense and security in Jakarta in March 1988. The contract covers the purchase by the Department of Defense and Security of six CN-235 aircraft from PT IPTN—two units used to transport paratroopers, two units of the low altitude parachute extraction system or LAPES type, and two units used for medical evacuation or medevac.

The two paratrooper units were handed over by PT IPTN to the Department of Defense and Security in January 1993. One LAPES-typed unit was handed over to the department in December 1993.

With the transfer of the other LAPES-typed unit on Friday (25 March), only two medevac-typed units which are undergoing finishing touches are yet to be handed over to the department. The two remaining units are scheduled to be personally handed over by Prof. Dr. B.J. Habibie, president director of PT IPTN, to Armed Forces Commander General Feisal Tanjung in June 1994.

The aircraft, which have been handed over to the department, are specifically designed for ABRI operations. The Indonesian Air Force can rely on the capability and agility of the aircraft to carry out its major duties. For example, a paratrooper unit is superior because it can simultaneously transport military personnel and drop them in a designated terrain.

New Political Trend, Golkar Generate Debates

Suharto Cautions Golkar

BK0704132094 Jakarta THE JAKARTA POST in English 29 Mar 94 p 1

[Text] Jakarta (JP)—President Suharto cautioned Golkar [Functional Group] leaders yesterday not to be easily swayed by the political maneuverings of certain people.

Suharto, in his capacity as chief patron of the country's ruling political groupings, said in a written statement that there is talk of there being political undercurrents. He felt that these are subverting Golkar because they have created the impression that the group has been torn apart.

"These so called 'undercurrents' don't exist," said Suharto, who chairs the council that has the last word in Golkar. "They are simply a few people who claim to speak on behalf of the masses."

"This is nothing but political engineering. Politics cannot be separated from engineering," he said in a keynote address to Golkar's working conference. The speech was read by Coordinating Minister for People's Welfare Azwar Anas, who sits in the council.

Golkar has been shaken in the past few months by dissension among some of its regional leaders in the elections of provincial governors and regents.

Reports from the regents suggested that the dissenters were responding to political engineering in those regions, and were therefore casting their votes for the more popular local leaders, instead of the candidates nominated by Golkar's central executive board.

The term "political undercurrents" first became popular last December with the election of Megawati Sukarnoputri as chairman of the minority Indonesian Democratic Party (PDI), despite stiff opposition from the government and the Armed Forces.

Megawati Sukarnoputri, is the daughter of Sukarno, Indonesia's first president.

The three-day conference is the first since the appointment of Harmoko, minister of information in Suharto's cabinet, to chair Golkar's central board last October.

Golkar leaders have attributed the regional dissension to lack of discipline among the regional leaders, something which they hope to straighten out at the gathering in Jakarta.

Harmoko told reporters after the opening ceremonies that the central board will not tolerate disciplinary problems and will punish members who have stepped out of line.

However, he denied allegations that Golkar was falling apart just because some members refused to obey central directives in local elections. "We are solid," he said.

In his speech, Suharto also told the estimated 600 Golkar leaders to avoid debate on the presidential succession which has been widely reported by the media in recent weeks.

The Patron Council feels it is not worth debating because there is already a mechanism to deal with leadership succession," he said referring to the five-yearly election process through the People's Consultative Assembly.

Suharto, who is now 72, indicated several times this month that he would not be pursuing a seventh, five-year term in office but he stressed that he intends to stay till the end of his current term in 1998.

The president also told the Golkar leaders to make sure that the political grouping retains its majority position in the next general election of 1997, targeting the estimated 21 million young people who will be voting for the first time.

He said Golkar should ignore the allegations that the single majority status that it has enjoyed could turn out into a dictatorship.

"Five election victories have not turned us into a dictatorship. On the contrary we have always represented the views of the people and accommodated their aspirations."

He also said that Golkar should fight against any attempt to reform election law, apparently referring to the constant demands by PDI and the United Development party (PPP) for changes in the electoral system.

Golkar Urged Not To Oppose Government

BK0704143494 Jakarta THE JAKARTA POST in English 30 mar 94 p 2

[Excerpts] Jakarta (JP)—Golkar [Functional Group] must be able to retain its independence from the government without ever becoming an opposition force, Minister of Home Affairs Yogi S. Memet says.

"Golkar cannot force itself to stand diametrically opposed to the government under the pretext of defending the public interest, because that is essentially the role of the government," Yogi said at a working conference of the ruling political group.

"Yet, on the other hand, Golkar must not ever become the government's mouthpiece in mobilizing support for its programs.

"Golkar as a socio-political organization has a different function and mission than the government," he added.

"Golkar must play out its role as the force that develops both the 'bottom-up' and 'top-down' approach to development," Yogi told the conference that is scheduled to wind up today.

Golkar must have the courage to take a leadership role in many issues, he said.

Golkar has been criticized by its opponents for its lack of independence from the government and the Armed Forces (ABRI). [passage omitted]

In October, the group broke tradition by electing Harmoko, a civilian, rather than a military man, as chairman.

Harmoko, better known a the information minister, has faced dissension from some regional Golkar leaders in recent months and this week's conference seeks to synchronize Golkar's programs in central and regional boards.

Officials in Jakarta blamed this dissension on the lack of discipline of its members, a theme that was also hammered home by ABRI Chief General Feisal Tanjung in his address to the conference yesterday.

Discipline is an essential criteria to measure the dynamics of an organization, Feisal said. "It must not be viewed as something which curbs freedom, creativity and human rights, but rather it is a measure of a mature behavior which keeps the organization solid and modern," he said.

All Golkar members must obey the rulings and procedures underlined in Golkar's statutes, and they must remain loyal to any decisions which have been reached through consensus.

This will prevent unnecessary dissension within Golkar in the future, he said.

Harmoko himself has warned that the central executive board will not tolerate disciplinary problems and will punish members who step out of line. [passage omitted]

Said Political Force Without Cause

BK0704143294 Jakarta THE JAKARTA POST in English 30 Mar 94 p 4

[Editorial: "A New Political Trend"]

[Text] Golkar [Functional Group], the government-backed political entity, has been witnessing a number of tempests in its teacup recently. Many Golkar functionaries in the provinces have resorted to acts of defiance in the election of local regents by rejecting the candidates backed by its central board or the central government.

These acts within the Golkar rank and file in the provinces which have come to be dubbed "undercurrents", have been so frequent that many observers view them as positive phenomena in the development of the country's political system.

Although in nearly all of the cases, Golkar's local politicians lost the cause, the inspiring aspect of their rejection of directives is that they now have the boldness to say "no" in situations in which they would previously have responded with total passivity. Every citizen here—outside and inside the ruling political organization—is quite aware that Golkar leaders are supposed to toe the government line.

Most observers would probably agree that although provincial politicians might have been a bit extreme in expressing their views, the central government has not been totally right in its aggressive effort to make local legislators accept its candidates. Minister of Home Affairs Yogi S. Memet withdrew his gubernatorial candidate for Central Kalimantan after the latter won local election but was subsequently widely opposed by the local leaders.

However, President Suharto refuses to recognize the existence of a trend. The head of state, in his capacity as chief patron of the Golkar, said in written message to the party leaders on Monday that there was no such thing as "undercurrents". In his view, the situation reflects no more than the fact that a few people claimed to speak on behalf of the masses.

Suharto's notion could be viewed as a call for Golkar leaders to set the organization's house in order. It is their internal problem.

But because the tendency is becoming more popular here now, the question is whether all political engineering—which Suharto said cannot be separated from politics—has a negative connotation? To Suharto the tendency toward more vocal local stances in the Golkar hierarchy might look like old-fashioned politicking because it does not introduce any positive way of thinking. But in other places, such as within the Indonesian Democratic Party (PDI), this type of "political engineering" has managed to channel the aspirations of the younger generation who rejected any candidate for the party leadership with a clear leaning toward the establishment. They believed that this kind of person would not be able to make the PDI a viable party.

During its congress at the end of last year, many young leaders of the PDI were of the opinion that the congress must be able to elect a strong and popular leader who would be able to put an end to the party's long history of internal squabbles once and for all. And to achieve this, they should also lend their ears to the young people, who had become more and more expressive. The younger ones were making an effort to gain wider participation within the party, a legal and normal crusade within a democratic country, where leaders are expected to be open and wise.

Whether or not President Suharto specifically meant the recent extra high profile activities among Golkar leaders in the provinces when he spoke about undercurrents, when looking at the reasons behind the new tendency we believe that it is not political engineering but political professionalism which has begun to gain a foothold. And this can be expected to provide Golkar with a more colorful political spectrum.

Laos

Keating Urges Help To Defuse Korean 'Tension'

BK0704050294 Bangkok THE NATION in English 7 Apr 94 p A8

[Excerpt] Vientiane—Visiting Australian Prime Minister Paul Keating yesterday urged Laos, a close communist ally of North Korea, to help defuse nuclear tension in the Korean peninsular, said Foreign Minister Somsavat Lengsavat.

The request was raised during Keating's talks with his Laotian counterpart Khamtai Siphandon. Laos' response, however, was cautious.

Somsavat said despite the government's policy fostering world peace and stability, Vientiane respected countries' individual rights to find solutions to their own problems.

"We (Laos and North Korea) in fact have good relations. Our two countries were the victims of aggression in the past," said Somsavat. [passage omitted]

Australian Prime Minister Ends Visit, Departs

BK0604132394 Vientiane Vitthayou Hengsat Radio Network in Lao 1200 GMT 6 Apr 94

[Text] After attending the ceremony to mark the handover of the border immigration station at the Lao-Thai friendship bridge, His Excellency [H.E.] Prime Minister Khamtai Siphandon bade farewell to H.E. Australian Prime Minister Paul Keating and his delegation at the border station. H.E. Khamtai Siphandon expressed thanks to H.E. Paul Keating for the aid in the border station construction. He also hailed the success of the high-level delegation of the Government of the Commonwealth of Australia in its visit to the Lao People's Democratic Republic. He wished H.E. Paul Keating, his wife, and delegation a good trip.

H.E. Prime Minister and his delegation left Vientiane for Bangkok by a special plane this afternoon for a visit to the Kingdom of Thailand.

Travel Restrictions for Foreigners Removed

BK0604030694 Bangkok THE NATION in English 6 Apr 94 p A2

[By Kunlachada Chaiphiphat]

[Text] Vientiane—To stimulate its tourism industry, Vientiane has dropped an almost two decade-long restriction on the movement of foreigners, allowing them to travel anywhere in Laos except for areas considered restricted and dangerous.

Tourists can also apply for entry visas at Laos' international checkpoints besides Laotian embassies.

Those international checkpoints are Vat Tai and Tha Nadeua at Vientiane in central Laos, Ban Houai Sai in Bokeo province, Sanakham in Sayaboury province in northern Laos and Ban Viang Savan in Savannakhet, all of which border Thailand. Another international checkpoint in Savannakhet's western frontier is at Ban Non Savan bordering Lao Bao in Vietnam.

Laos expects a hike in the number of foreign tourists, especially in the coming months after the opening of Mittaphap Thai-Lao bridge.

The relaxed tourism measures did not mention new freedom of movement for foreign diplomats in Vientiane. Vientiane-based diplomats from western countries have been restricted to within six kilometres of the capital and could travel to other provinces only with prior notification from Vientiane authorities.

To promote domestic tourism, Vientiane will also allow its citizens to travel within the country using only their identity cards. Before, they had to apply to provincial authorities for passes to other provinces.

However residents without identity cards will still have to seek passes from the provincial authorities.

The newly-formed National Tourism Organization has devised a motto, "Lao travel in Laos", to encourage domestic tourism.

To foster its new tourism plan for this year, the organization has divided the country into three zones. In the northern zone, destinations being touted are Bokeo, Oudomsai, Houaphan, Xiang Khouang and Luang Prabang.

In the central zone are Vientiane, Vientiane Municipality, Khammouane within a parameter of 20 square kilometres and Savannakhet in the orbit of Route 9, while in the southern zone are Champassak and Saravane.

The steps are being taken to prepare for a Laos Tourism Year, which Vientiane hopes will be in 1995.

The new set of immigration measures were approved by an intergovernment committee comprising representatives of the Foreign and Interior ministries and chaired by Minister of the Prime Minister's Office Phao Bounnaphon.

The announcement was made on Monday in the VIENTIANE-MAI WEEKLY, five days ahead of the inauguration of the Mittaphap Thai-Lao Bridge set for this Friday.

The newspaper said all authorities concerned in the provinces have been informed of the new regulations.

The move followed considerable debate over the past year between reformists and conservatives within the Lao People's Revolutionary Party over whether to relax immigration controls.

Thai-Lao Bridge Poses No 'Threat' to Laos

BK0704071094 Bangkok THE NATION in English 7 Apr 94 p A1

[Text] Vientiane—The opening of the first bridge between Laos and Thailand should not be seen as a threat to Laos' sovereignty or cultural identity, Laotian leaders said yesterday.

They also reaffirmed that continued political and social stability is a key factor in ensuring the further success of the country's economic reform.

Responding to reporters' questions at a rare press conference here here yesterday, Deputy Prime Minister Khamphoui Keobuoalapha said the opening of the bridge should make it easier for foreign visitors to see, better understand and appreciate Laotian society, culture and national identity.

The press conference, also attended by Foreign Minister Somsavat Lengsavat and Seun Phetsanghan, the minister for transportation, post, communications and construction, was in response to several requests by the foreign press for interviews with key government leaders in the lead-up to the official opening of the bridge tomorrow.

Hundreds of foreign reporters were granted the entry to Vientiane to cover the event, which is seen as an important step in Laos' economic openness. In the past they have been allowed into the landed-locked country only during major events. Regular news cover of Laos has been restricted.

Khamphoui also rejected fears the bridge will facilitate the arrival of bad influences from "outside"—especially from Thailand.

"Both Thailand and Laos have agreed to respect each other's laws and regulations, which are designed to protect national interest, sovereignty and cultural and national identity," said the deputy prime minister.

Instead, he said, the maintenance and preservation of the bridge—a symbol of friendship between Thailand, Laos and Australia—would meaningfully contribute to the preservation and maintenance of good bilateral relations and co-operation, and thus towards peace and stability in the region as a whole.

Khamphoui sidestepped many controversial questions including when the bridge will be opened to regular traffic after Friday's official inauguration, given that some problems remain.

"We have survived without the bridge in the past, please don't rush," he said jokingly.

Responding to the same question Phetsanghan said the purpose of the bridge was to facilitate border crossing by local people as well as for foreigners who want to visit and invest in Laos.

However as far as cultural preservation was concerned, the government had a clear policy to preserve the country's culture and identity but not to an extent which blocked other cultures.

Foreign Minister Somsavat yesterday said the date for opening of the bridge to regular use will be decided tomorrow, when a joint Thai-Lao committee meets.

The minister said there were two issues still to be settled.

Under the government-to-government agreement signed on April 2, three working committees were set up—one to administer the bridge, the others to operate the bridge and to rule on legal problems and jurisdiction.

Somsavat expressed optimism that the relaxation of immigration rules would bring-more investors to the country. Visa restrictions for foreigners have been eased to encourage investment and tourism.

Thai Daily Views Lao Political Direction

BK0504133794 Bangkok PHUCHATKAN in Thai 4-10 Apr 94 pp 41, 42

[Text] CHATURAT: Laos is a country rich in natural resources, especially timber and minerals. However, it has no money to tap these treasures. Will your government accept foreign investment and on what conditions?

Kaysone: Our government is ready to cooperate in economic development with all countries on the principle of equity and posing no threat to our independence.

CHATURAT: What is the top priority on the list of your government's economic development plan?

Kaysone: We will turn our country into an industrial nation based on agriculture and forestry.

Norman Pegam, special reporter of CHATURAT magazine, asked these two questions to Kaysone Phomvihan, former president of the Lao People's Democratic Republic [LPDR] and former head of the Lao People's Revolutionary Party [LPRP], 18 years ago. The answers were nothing but a plan which would take decades for its materialization.

The promulgation of the "New Economic Mechanism" or "Restructuring" policy was the first sign of the plan being materialized. Kaysone Phomvihan proposed the policy during the fourth party congress in 1986 to lay the foundation for decentralized economic development.

During the fifth congress in 1991, the LPRP announced the national socioeconomic development plan for the period from 1993 to 2000. The plan encourages the application of capitalism rules but refuses to let the country plunge into the orbit of capitalism. However, the official opening of the bridge [linking Vientiane capital with Thailand's Nong Khai Province] this month will attach Laos to capitalism.

Although Laos' centralized economic system has been shifted to Lao-style capitalism, its political system remains "Lao-style" democracy or centralized democracy. It is apparent that the centralized power is in the hands of the group of "party leaders from southern Laos."

The Road of Power Stretches to the South [Subhead]

After the death of Kaysone Phomvihan in 1992, Nouhak Phoumsavan was named the new president of the LPDR while General Khamtai Siphandon became chairman of the LPRP.

The appointments of Kaysone Phomvihan's close comrades in arms to the highest posts to administer the country and party brought an abrupt end to the anticipation of a massive reshuffle of the power holders.

The allocation of important posts in the National Assembly, Council of Ministers, and party indicates an attempt to keep the power well balanced at a certain level. President Nouhak Phoumsavan has the power to appoint or dismiss the prime minister while Prime Minister Khamtai Siphandon, in his capacity as chairman of the party, also has the power to propose to the National Assembly the appointment or dismissal of the president.

It should be noted that Nouhak Phoumsavan, a native of Savannakhet Province, is classified as a member of the political group of former President Kaysone Phomvihan; Phoun Sipaseut, deputy prime minister in charge of foreign affairs; and Phao Bounnaphon, minister attached to the Prime Minister's Office.

Meanwhile, General Khamtai Siphandon, a native of Khon District in Champassak Province, belongs to the Champassak power group. Defense Minister Lieutenant Choummali Sai-gnason and National Assembly President Saman Vi-gnaket also come from this group.

Gen. Khamtai belongs to the Lao Thoeng ethnic group. Other personalities belonging to this ethnic group include renowned economist Khamphoui Keoboualapha, deputy prime minister in charge of economic affairs and member of the Commission for Planning and Cooperation with Foreign Countries. The commission, in coordination with the other four economic agencies—namely the Finance Ministry, Trade Ministry, Foreign Ministry, and the State Bank—is fully responsible for the control and promotion of foreign investment.

Glancing at the list of members of the party's Political Bureau appointed by the fifth party congress, it appears that more than half of them are southerners, namely Nouhak Phoumsavan (No. 2), Gen. Khamtai Siphandon (No. 3), Phoun Sipaseut (No. 4), Saman Vi-gnaket (No. 6) Lieutenant General Choummali Sai-ngason (No. 8), and Kamphoui Keoboualapha (No. 10), as well as the late Kaysone Phomvihan (No. 1), and the late Somlat Chanthamat (No. 9).

Maichantan Sengmani (No. 5), Oudom Khatthi-gna (No. 7), and Thongsing Thammavong (No. 11) are the three northerners appointed to the present Political Bureau.

The photos from the signing ceremony of the agreement on developing the Khon Phapheng Resort (Liphi Waterfall) between Khamphoui Keoboualapha on behalf of the Commission for Planning and Foreign Cooperation and Khun Somphop Piya-ui of T.U. Company Ltd tells the inside story of Laos' politics and economy. Everyone knows that the area to be developed is the home town of General Khamtai Siphandon.

Khong District of the Kha ethnic group has a long record of struggling for national liberation. The Kha people under the command of their chieftain Kommadan rose up against French colonialist rule and later the chieftain's son, Sithon Kommadan, led his people to join other minority groups in the struggle for national liberation.

General Khamtai Siphandon was born in a farming family in Houa Khong village. Like other youths in those days, he joined the revolutionary movement in Champassak Province by becoming a member of the Indochina Party (the first Marxist-Leninist Communist Party established by Ho Chi Minh in the region) and later shifted to the LPRP.

During the war against the U.S. imperialists, the name of Khamtai Siphandon was always mentioned after those of Kaysone Phomvihan and Nouhak Phoumsavan.

Immediately after the formation of the first government of the LPDR, Gen. Khamtai Siphandon was appointed deputy prime minister, defense minister, and supreme commander of the Lao Armed Forces.

Afterwards, he fully controlled power in the Lao People's Army until recently handing this power to Lieutenant General Choummali Sai-gnason.

Gen. Khamtai Siphandon took up the presidency during a time when Laos is being bombarded by the strong currents of capitalism. The party leader, a competent warrior on any battlefield, realizes the fact that "economic war is different from bloody political war." So he prudently rearranged his Army by posing "new-headed youths" as his front commanders to fight on the globalization battlefield.

In so doing, he appointed Somsavat Lengsavat, an international relations graduate from the United States, as the foreign minister of his government. Khamsai Souphanouvong, a son of the revolutionary prince who was an economics graduate who studied in France, was named finance minister. Sompadit Vorasan, an economist who studied in France, was appointed to be trade minister; and Butsabong Suvannavong, a finance and banking expert from England, became governor of the State Bank.

Political observers in Laos anticipate that a cabinet reshuffle will take place soon. President Nouhak Phoumsavan, 78, will retire from politics and be replaced by Gen. Khamtai Siphandon, 66.

It is generally believed Defense Minister Lt. Gen. Choummali Sai- gnason will become the new prime minister and the post of defense minister will be given to General Sisavat Keobounphan, who was not appointed to the party's Political Bureau by the fifth party congress.

However, this speculation is based on the compromise between the northerners and southerners which is designed to keep the national economic development scheme moving ahead in line with the principle of "daring to accept capitalism, but not be enslaved by capitalism."

The directions of Laos' politics and economy from now on will be controlled by Gen. Khamtai Siphandon and his six southern compatriots in the party's Political Bureau.

This is the Lao People's Democratic Republic under the rule of "southerners."

Philippines

Ramos Announces Appointments for Military Commands

BK0704073394 Quezon City GMA-7 Radio-Television Arts Network in Tagalog 0930 GMT 6 Apr 94

[Text] President Ramos has made additional appointments for the Armed Forces. Major General Orlando Soriano of the Philippine Army will lead the Southern Command. He will replace Lieutenant General Thelmo Cunanan, who is going to retire on 14 April. Brigadier Edgardo Batenga will be the new Northern Luzon Commander. He will replace Soriano. Batenga's replacement as 5th Infantry Division chief is Brigadier General Romeo (Padiernos).

Nineteen officials, including General Lisandro Abadia, will officially retire this year.

Reports on Killing of Former Guerrilla Leader

Killers Identified

BK0704083694 Quezon City GMA-7 Radio-Television Arts Network in Tagalog 0930 GMT 06 Apr 94

[Text] The two suspects and a lookout in the assassination of Leopoldo Mabilangan, alias Comrade Hector, and his bodyguard have already been identified. However, PNP [Philippine National Police] ReCom [Regional Command] IV Chief Romeo Odi refused to disclose the names of the three. The three are now the subject of an extensive manhunt called Task Force Comrade Hector.

The first gunman is 5 feet and 6 inches tall, weighs 135 pounds, slim-built, around 20 years old and of brown complexion. According to witnesses, the first gunman approached and shot Comrade Hector between the eyes. When he fell, the second gunman approached and shot Comrade Hector in the face and the body to make sure that he was dead.

The second gunman is a mestizo, stands 5 feet and 7 inches, is between 28 and 33 years old, and is of medium-build. He is believed to be the leader of the group. The lookout, who also served as the back-up, is also of medium-build and is 5 feet 7 inches tall, of fair complexion, and 25 to 30 years old.

Meantime, ReCom IV confirms that the murder of Comrade Hector was decided by the Southern Tagalog Regional Committee of the New People's Army [NPA]. According to Superintendent Victor Tiangco, five former followers of Comrade Hector descended the mountain to warn him of the assassination plan.

[Begin Tiangco recording in English; monitored in progress] ...our investigation leads to Comrade Roger's group and we have witnesses and statements by reliable sources that this is the handiwork of Comrade Roger of the CPP (Communist Party of the Philippines)-NPA, because one week before the actual ambush of Comrade Hector, a group of NPA's loyal to Mabilangan went to his residence and warned him of the assassination to be carried out by expert assassins led by Comrade Rex and Comrade Carlo. [end recording]

In a related development, the possible motive for murdering Mabilangan is alleged to be related to his livelihood projects. According to the NBI [National Bureau of Investigation], many rebels surrendered to join Comrade Hector's projects, which grossly reduced the ranks of the NPA, especially the Banahaw Command, formerly led by Comrade Hector.

President Ramos assured the family of Comrade Hector that the government would do its best to arrest his assassins. The president likewise called Comrade Hector a hero because he risked his life when he surrendered and decided to help the government. The president likewise issued a directive to study the possibility of putting rebel surrenderees under the witness protection program or granting them security.

CPP Claims Killing

BK0704083994 Quezon City Radio Filipinas in English 0230 GMT 7 Apr 94

[Text] The Communist Party of the Philippines [CPP] has claimed responsibility for the assassination of former communist guerrilla commander Leopoldo Mabilangan, alias Comrade Hector. The Philippine News and Features interviewed another communist guerrilla chieftain who is still active in the movement about the Mabilangan assassination. Gregorio Rosal, alias Comrade Roger, spokesman of the CPP in southern Tagalog and Luzon, told the news organization that Mabilangan was ordered killed for his criminal and anti- revolutionary activities. Mabilangan had been charged of extortion and other criminal activities, including kidnapping for ransom. He was expelled from the CPP in February last year.

Mabilangan and a bodyguard was shot dead in front of a parish church in Batangas on Easter Sunday [2 April]. Mabilangan was to act as principal sponsor in a wedding ceremony. Three other people, including a traffic policeman, were wounded.

Thailand

U.S. Urged To Face 'New Realities' in Asia

BK0704075594 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 7 Apr 94 p 4

[Editorial: "US must adjust to new realities in Asia"]

[Text] On the heels of Secretary of State Warren Christopher's quietly humiliating trip to Peking, the United States was dealt another blow to its prestige when assistant secretary of state Robin Raphel spent several days in New Delhi late last month. The political dynamics of that visit bear study and shed light on emerging new realities in Asia.

On Mr Christopher's fiasco of diplomatic mission to assert US might on behalf of jailed Chinese dissidents, Paula R. Newberg of the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace put it perhaps the most kindly: "The China debacle exemplifies the difficulties of discussing rights issues with rights violators," she wrote. Ms Raphel's visit to Delhi was characterised by much forced jocularity on her part, and a field day fo India's lively, nationalistic Press. Kanchan Gupta of THE PIONEER newspaper chided Home Minister S.B. Chavan for "warmly greeting" Raphel, thereby "mortgaging our foreign policy to the quirks of political novices like Ms Raphel who would have been pushing files in anonymous offices had it not been for Mr Bill Clinton coming to power in the US."

The state of relations was well illustrated by a brief incident caught by the camera of THE ASIAN AGE, whose photo caption read: "Joint secretary Hardeep Puri, in best diplomatic demeanour, welcomes a cheery Robin Raphel at his office in South Block on Wednesday morning. Keen observers noted that he quickly camouflaged a wince as Ms Raphel took her fellow bureaucrat by the arm."

The matter of Kashmir—the main topic on Ms Raphel's agenda—is complex, and India is far from blameless. But the Indian Government has shown itself healthily disdainful of US protestations and machinations in the now-hackneyed "wake of the Cold War". The US must learn—surely is learning, and quickly—that it can no longer follow the dictum of former president Theodore Roosevelt by speaking softly and carrying a big stick. That reality is an ugly one: The US has been an important force for human rights as well as a major political and economic player in the world for some decades now. As long as America was a leading factor in the world economy, governments with which it has done business have had at least to pay lip service to democracy and human rights.

This is amply evident in the Clinton administration's diplomatic soft-shoe over Most Favoured Nation trading status for China. But with the Cold War yielding to multipolar entropy and the impending economic rise of Asia (especially China), this too will change. The failure of Soviet communism and the apparent decline in America's ability to live by its founding ideals have left the moral foundation of global politics dangerously weak. Brute power is becoming more decisive than ever both inside and among countries.

Much concern has lately been expressed over alleged human rights abuses by Indian armed forces in Kashmir. No doubt there is some, perhaps much, truth in the allegations made. Yet analyst Ajit Bhattacharjea in the India newspaper THE PIONEER makes a very good and welcome point when he writes: "The lesson to be learnt is that foreign pressure enables the Government to justify its policies, not to modify them. In the last analysis, the human rights of Kashmiris, as of every one else in this country, can be secured only by ourselves."

Mr Bhattacharjea's point is mature beyond almost anything else written or said by journalists or politicians anywhere. His extremely apt point is that if we, the citizens of a country—say, Thailand—believe human rights are important, then we, the citizens must insist on them. We must hold our government and our elected leaders accountable, constantly and rigorously. "The fact is," writes Mr Bhattacharjea "that civil rights, in this country or in China, or anywhere else, cannot be sustained by Washington, but only by the pressure of domestic opinion."

The question then becomes: Do we want civil rights? Do we want a democratic, accountable government? Do we want to know what is happening to our water supply, and the traffic on our city streets, and our villages, and our rivers? If so, we must rely on ourselves, as individuals and as organised groups of citizens. We cannot rely on the US. To quote Mr Bhattacharjea yet again: "There is much in the US record ... to show that human rights have been regarded as negotiable in exchange for strategic and economic facilities." In any case, in today's world the US doesn't seem to be the "superpower with clout" it used to be. Just ask Warren Christopher or Robin Raphel.

Australia's Keating Arrives on Official Visit

BK0604144494 Bangkok Thai Color Television Channel 9 in Thai 1200 GMT 6 Apr 94

[Text] Australian Prime Minister Paul Keating, his wife, and delegation arrived on board a special Royal Thai Air Force plane at Don Muang Airport at 1530 today to begin an official visit to Thailand until 10 April as guests of the Thai Government. The Australian prime minister is scheduled to meet with Prime Minister Chuan Likphai tomorrow and be received by his majesty the king in the evening. On 8 April, he will proceed to Nong Khai Province to participate in the official opening of the Thai-Lao Friendship Bridge.

Interior Minister on Performance, Terrorism

BK0504021594 Bangkok THE NATION in English 5 Apr 94 p A5

["Excerpts" of an interview with Interior Minister Chawalit Yongchaiyut by an unidentified correspondent; place, date not given]

[Text] **Some people have described your performance as interior minister as poor. How do you respond to this assessment.**

Our country has long been plagued with conflicts, political and otherwise. When I became interior minister, I tried to solve these conflicts peacefully. I tried to improve the efficiency of the agencies in charge of administration and security. Conflicts occurred when I tried to reform the Police Department. The reforms were implemented, however. As a result, the police are working harder and more efficiently in serving the public. Gambling dens have been suppressed and road check-points set up in an improved effort to keep law and order.

So how do you feel about continued criticism in spite of all your hard work.

It's normal and healthy for MPs to criticize me. I would do the same thing if I were in their place. I appreciate the fact that people were very angry at me following a few violent incidents, like bomb attacks in certain provinces, and so on. They wondered why I resisted taking action, like transferring police chiefs of those provinces, etc. I say to them that before taking any drastic action we need more evidence and more time to study the facts of the case.

What do you see as hampering the running of your ministry.

Bureaucracy in the agencies under my ministry. For example, the Police Department. Its structure really only allows it to deal with internal law and order problems, and not with international terrorism.

You mean the Police Department's structure has kept its role limited, or are you saying that the police should not be doing the job in the first place.

Neither the Interior Ministry nor the Police Department can be expected to perform a task which is beyond their capabilities or which will require measures which exceed those we have already prepared in order to cope with any forseeable crisis. If a major crisis breaks out and we deem it to be beyond our capability, we should be able to say that it is now time for the military to step in.

What will you do now that international terrorists have apparently penetrated our borders.

The situation is certainly not out of hand yet. We have several devices we can employ to help us spy on the terrorists, such as an electronic device which can be placed on any concrete wall less than one-foot thick. That device will enable us to hear the conversations of the people behind the wall. However, terrorists could also monitor our electronic eavesdropping tools or communications equipment.

So, terrorists will know more about the movement of police from the department's equipment than the police will learn about the criminals. Is that right.

That's it.

What more will you do to improve the performance of the Interior Ministry.

We need to improve our intelligence work. We should also improve the coordination between interior agencies, especially those concerned with security affairs. The agencies' structure should also be streamlined to increase efficiency.

Recent incidents have prompted many to think that the Interior Ministry's performance in protecting people's live's and property has been poor.

Problems occur in every government. Whenever you have a situation where there are a lot of conflicts in a country, incidents like these will happen.

What parties have been in conflict recently.

Last May, we had a political conflict. That conflict arose because two major groups had different approaches to solving the country's problems. One side wanted to solve the problems peacefully while the other wanted to use force.

I myself has been trying to solve problems by reforming the structure of certain interior agencies, including the Police Department. But my attempts to reform the Police Department have led to conflicts in the agency.

So, someone dislikes you.

Of course. There is always trouble inside the Police Department. This department is one of several government agencies under political influence.

But why are there so many who disagree with you.

When the department was reformed, illegal businesses like gambling and prostitution were affected. The revamp has caused billions of baht in damages to certain groups of people and this has caused conflict.

Measures To 'Thwart' Terrorists' Activities

BK0604031394 Bangkok THE NATION in English 6 Apr 94 p A4

[Text] The Interior Ministry announced yesterday it would impose measures to thwart international terrorists from entering and operating in Thailand, including tighter control on the movements of some tourists, stricter controls on immigrants as well as improvements in intelligence-gathering.

Permanent Secretary for Interior Ari Wong-araya said after a meeting with the governors of 31 border provinces, Special Branch police and the National Security Council at the Interior Ministry yesterday that he told the participants to redouble their efforts to deter international terrorists from entering the country.

"The governors of border provinces were briefed on international terrorists and ways to prevent them from entering and carrying out missions in Thailand," Ari said.

He said although the focus of the plan was on international terrorists, provincial governors were also told to monitor the movements of possible would-be saboteurs in their jurisdiction.

Ari said stringent control on the movement of certain foreign tourists and immigrants was a priority to be carried out by the Immigration Division police. He said tighter immigration controls would be adopted.

He indicated that one of Thailand's neighbouring countries had been supporting terrorist activities in Thailand. He did not identify the country.

Ari said provincial governors had been instructed to closely monitor the movement of suspected terrorists in their jurisdiction and share the information with other provinces through a coordination centre at the Interior Ministry.

Provincial governors were also told to draw up their own plans to deal with international terrorists based on political and social factors unique to their respective areas, Ari said.

Foreign Minister To Visit Rangoon 19 Apr

BK0704072594 Bangkok THE NATION in English 7 Apr 94 p A5

[Text] Foreign Minister Prasong Sunsiri will visit Rangoon on April 19 and will officially invite Burma to attend the Asean Ministerial Meeting in July as Bangkok's guest.

His visit, at the invitation of Rangoon, comes shortly after Prasong finally obtained approval from the five other member states—Brunei, Indonesia, Malaysia, the Philippines, and Singapore—that Burma should be invited as a guest of the host country and not of the regional grouping.

This will limit Rangoon's participation to attending the opening session and the official dinner, not the closed discussions.

Indonesia, Malaysia and the Philippines had initially held "some reservations" about inviting Burma to the Asean conference. They have expressed concern over Asean losing credibility in the eyes of the world community and about strong criticism from the West, which has strongly condemned the Burmese military regime's heavy-handed policy against the democracy movement.

They are also concerned that the problems of Muslim Rohingya refugees fleeing from military persecution in Burma's western Arakan State into Bangladesh are not yet fully resolved.

Thailand, as chairman of the Asean Standing Committee, will host the ministerial meeting in July. The forum will be immediately followed by a meeting of Asean with its seven developed, dialogue partners—Australia, Canada, Japan, New Zealand, South Korea, the European Union and the United States.

Informed sources said Prasong's acceptance of the Burmese junta's invitation and the date is being conveyed to Rangoon for final approval. The trip will last one or two days, depending on the programme arranged by Burmese authorities.

Prasong will visit Burma as chairman of the Asean Standing Committee and as Thai foreign minister. The objective of the trip is to inform the Burmese regime what he has done in inviting Burma to the Asean meeting, and to assess the political situation and development in the country, said the sources.

The Thai foreign minister has been criticized for his drastic shift of policy towards Burma. He earlier strongly criticized the government of then prime minister Anan Panyarachun for its ties with the Burmese junta and for ignoring the plight of the Burmese democratic forces. At that time he called for a change of policy and for sympathy and support for pro-democratic movement in Burma.

Since his appointment as foreign minister, however, he has discarded his previous views and himself become involved with the military junta known as the State Law and Order Restoration Council (Slorc).

He travelled to Burma last September amid strong opposition from the Burmese dissidents to endorse the establishment of a new bilateral Thai-Burmese committee, which is to oversee trade and economic relations.

Prasong has expressed his strong desire to include Burma as a member of Asean at the earliest opportunity. Rangoon has for the past three years shown interest in attending the annual Asean meeting, but lack of consensus among the Asean countries prevented its participation.

Bilateral Commission Planned With Australia

BK0704094994 Melbourne Radio Australia in English 0500 GMT 7 Apr 94

[Text] A formal bilateral trade commission is to be set up between Thailand and Australia. Evan Williams reports from Bangkok that the body will boost relations by providing a formal network for trade and foreign ministries:

[Begin Williams recording] Launching the second leg of his Asian tour, Paul Keating meets his Thai counterpart Chuan Likphai today before addressing a business lunch and having an audience with the king. A new joint economic commission will be set up, and Thailand wants Australia to play a more active role in coordinating the future of APEC [Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation].

Tomorrow, Mr. Keating will help open the Australian-funded bridge to Laos in a ceremony chaired by the Thai king. The bridge is seen as an important sign of Australia's commitment here and a symbol of the region's new economic potential after years of war. [end recording]

Firm, Burmese Government Sign Memorandum

BK0704081294 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 7 Apr 94 p 22

[Text] Myanmar [Burma] Economic Holding Co, a private holding company of the Burmese Government, has agreed to cooperate with Loxley Plc in a first step to turn the country's economy toward free-market policies.

The move was suggested by the Asian Development Bank in Manila.

Burmese National Planning and Economic Development Minister Brig- Gen [Brigadier General] D.O. Abel said during the signing of a memorandum in Bangkok yesterday that the Burmese military rulers had liberalised the country's economy since 1988, making it more market- oriented in line with international business practices.

His government, through the holding company, is holding talks with Bangkok Bank, Thai Farmers Bank and Thai Military Bank to become correspondent banks with the state bank in Burma.

The Burmese bank, which has been allowed to operate foreign exchange and offshore banking businesses, has such correspondent bank agreements with banks in Japan, Switzerland, Singapore and South Korea.

The holding company's business includes trading, construction, general business and services.

It has industrial joint ventures with companies in South Korea, Hong Kong, Germany and soon with the United States.

Phuangkeao Phochanpanit, executive vice-president of Loxley, said cooperation with her company would include Loxley's distribution of jewellery from Burma. Loxley would distribute consumer, telecommunications and related products in Burma.

The memorandum would be a basis of cooperation for each party to buy and distribute the other's products and to exchange information on products, markets and technical training.

Loxley director Wichian Watanakun said his company made a feasibility study of running a business in Burma before setting up Loxley Myanmar Co in Rangoon in January.

Brig-Gen Abel described the cooperation between the holding company and Loxley as a model for regional cooperation.

Two Thai companies have applied to run authorised timber businesses in Burma, he said.

The Burmese administration has to consider environmental protection and the scope of timber plantations among other things, before giving a final decision on whether both companies can be awarded contracts.

"End-users should invest in Burma for the timber business," he said.

He said that before 1988 the military rulers had 100 percent control of the Burmese economy. But now about 72 percent of Burma's GDP growth was contributed by the private sector.

Burmese government figures showed that Burma's GDP growth last year was 10.9 percent and was expected to be 5.6 percent this year, he said.

Chuan Views Charter Amendment, Achievements

BK0604125394 Bangkok MATICHON in Thai 6 Apr 94 p 2

["Interview" with Prime Minister Chuan Likphai by unidentified MATICHON correspondent at the Imperial Hotel in Bangkok on 4 April]

[Text] [Correspondent] Would you tell us about your government's achievements?

[Chuan] Some critics say that the government has nothing much to talk about its past achievements. It's hard to say. The government's daily performance has always been overshadowed by more exciting political news such as those predicting the imminent fall of the coalition. This sort of news draws more attention. Frankly speaking, the mass media themselves have been trying to paint a picture of the prime minister as an incompetent and indecisive person.

However, I never allow such things to dishearten me. My duty is to keep on working. The government has its own principle to follow. We also hold consultations with academics. They do not have to agree with us. We have our own methods of working. Hence, I have become the target of criticism as a person who does not dare to make any decisions and who has no sense of responsibility.

I do not feel insecure if academics will not support me because I was elected by tens of thousands of voters. People have their own different opinions. Last week, lecturers of Prince Songkhla University, Pattani Campus, voiced their agreement with what the government has done. However, they said that their views might not be weighed because they are merely upcountry lecturers.

If we reject advice given by academics, it does not mean that we do not attach any significance to their views. The government always listens to their opinions. However, some members of the government like Akhom Engchuan frequently come out to counter criticism.

[Correspondent] We have the impression that the government is rather slow. How can it work under the current situation?

[Chuan] It is necessary for the government to be firm under the present conditions. Otherwise, the country will be plunged into confusion and disorder. We must have courage to deal with problems and to defend national interests.

[Correspondent] Isn't it necessary for the government to fulfill the desires of the people?

[Chuan] Sometimes, it is not what the majority of the people want. We must be rational and realistic in solving problems.

[Correspondent] What is your view regarding relations between your government and the Senate? We are talking about the incident in the National Assembly [the rejection of the government-backed constitutional amendment draft bill]. Most of the senators are military officers and apparently do not support your government.

[Chuan] I look at it from another angle. I believe that senators will vote against any draft bill that calls for the reduction of their number if the legislation is sponsored by the opposition. If, however, the National Assembly rejects the government's budget bill, that is a different story.

[Correspondent] Do you mean that the constitution drafts are not that important?

[Chuan] No, the Constitution is important. The government alone cannot amend the Constitution because it has only 193 votes in the house. It is our intention to make the amendment perfect. Ten political parties earlier made a gentleman's agreement to support the government-sponsored bills. We have not added anything to the bills. We kept our promise. I admit that the bills are not that perfect, in particular the one on the reduction of the number of senators.

We have to look into the background of this issue. The government has not proposed the draft as its own legislation because it cannot ensure the passage of the bill with its 193 votes in the house. It merely gives its support to the legislation. Whether the bill will be passed into law or rejected by the parliament is not important. The issue has not yet come near its end. Let's wait and see how things will evolve. In fact, the government-sponsored draft includes all major points. Since the government's drafts were on the agenda before those of the opposition, the deliberation should continue. We forwarded the drafts to the parliament before the opposition, but the agenda was later revised.

As we all know, the government only has 193 votes. If they do not support us, our law will be rejected. The house speaker faithfully did his job.

There is no need to dissolve the parliament. Nobody wants it to happen. Military officers who have the power in their hands have no such an idea. It is those with no power who talk too much.

[Correspondent] Pro-democracy groups such as the Group of 13 Organizations have now emerged.

[Chuan] It is better if they come out to give support to the principle of democracy, not violence.

[Correspondent] Their emergence can lead to confrontation.

[Chuan] I reaffirm that we uphold the path of democracy. On this path, let changes be made.

[Correspondent] Do you see any chance of clashes among the Thai people?

[Chuan] We must try to prevent that. Democracy is the best avenue that relies on rationalism.

[Correspondent] But to follow the path of democracy means we must serve the people's interests. Otherwise, the people will not have faith in the democratic form of government.

[Chuan] We cannot use any particular group as a yardstick. We must look at the entire population in the country. If not, we will take the wrong approach to solve problems. We must stand firm regardless of what happens. If we fail to use the democratic approach in dealing with problems, we will put the democratic system in danger. If we reject the democratic way, we will do whatever is convenient for us even at the cost of our own credibility. But we adhere to the principle of democracy. We will not do anything simply to serve our own desires since we will not learn anything from doing that.

[Correspondent] Is the house dissolution an option in line with the principle of democracy?

[Chuan] Yes, it is. But I do not think that it's time to do so.

[Correspondent] What about your resignation?

[Chuan] Have I done anything wrong?

[Correspondent] Will you not feel embarrassed if you have to resign?

[Chuan] I do not feel like I will lose face. On the contrary, we, as a political party, must honor our promise. That is the right thing to do.

[Correspondent] Suppose you resign and become the prime minister again, will you consider including some opposition parties in your new coalition?

[Chuan] I have not yet thought about such a scenario. After the closure of this National Assembly session, we will have to take some time to iron things out.

Vietnam

Palestinian Official Ends Visit, Departs

BK0604143194 Hanoi VNA in English 1351 GMT 6 Apr 94

[Text] Hanoi VNA April 6—Palestinian Foreign Minister Faruq Qaddumi and his party left Hanoi today, concluding their three-day official friendship visit to Vietnam.

They were seen off at the government guest house by Foreign Minister Nguyen Manh Cam, Deputy Foreign Minister Nguyen Dy Nien, Deputy Head of the External Relations Commission of the Communist Party of Vietnam Central Committee Do Van Tai and other Vietnamese officials. Palestinian Ambassador to Vietnam Sa'id Khalil al-Masri was also present.

Before leaving here, Minister Faruq Qaddumi held a press conference on the results of this Vietnam visit.

Summit Meeting Held with Sweden in Hanoi

Vo Van Kiet Welcomes Bildt

BK0704100794 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam Network in Vietnamese 0500 GMT 7 Apr 94

[Text] His Excellency Carl Bildt, prime minister of the Kingdom of Sweden, arrived in Ho Chi Minh City yesterday on an official friendship visit to Vietnam at the invitation of SRV Prime Minister Vo Van Kiet. Prime Minister Carl Bildt and his entourage arrived in Hanoi from Ho Chi Minh City today. An official ceremony to welcome the Swedish prime minister was solemnly held at the Presidential Office in Hanoi this morning.

Paper Hails Visit

BK0704083794 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam Network in Vietnamese 2300 GMT 6 Apr 94

[Text] On the occasion of the official friendship visit to Vietnam by Swedish Prime Minister Carl Bildt, the paper NHAN DAN on 7 April carried an editorial entitled: "Strengthen the Relations of Friendship and Cooperation Between Vietnam and Sweden." The editorial says:

The world economic crisis has caused numerous difficulties for the Swedish economy. As a result, the Swedish Government, headed by Prime Minister Carl Bildt after the 1991 election, has cut its development aid to foreign countries. However, it has increased aid to our nation and has become the country with the largest volume of non-refundable aid to Vietnam.

The Swedish Government and businessmen have highly appraised Vietnam's renovation process and hailed the achievements recorded by our country in this regard. Our Swedish friends have also expressed their wish to expand cooperation with Vietnam and enhance the fine relations between the two countries.

The official visit to Vietnam by Swedish Prime Minister Carl Bildt is a significant event in the Vietnam-Swedish relations and is in line with Vietnam's open door foreign policy.

The Vietnamese people warmly welcome the first visit to Vietnam by the Swedish Prime Minister and wish him splendid success. Indeed, the visit will contribute to strengthening the friendship and cooperation between Vietnam and Sweden, thereby meeting the aspiration and interest of the two peoples and strengthening peace, stability, and development in the region. 062300

Defense Minister Receives French Delegation

BK0704104094 Hanoi VNA in English 0606 GMT 7 Apr 94

[Text] Hanoi VNA April 7—Vietnamese Minister of National Defence General Doan Khue received here yesterday a delegation of the institute of the high-ranking Military Research of France led by General Francois Bresson on a working visit to Vietnam.

Also present at the reception were deputy general staff of the Vietnam People's Army Lieut. Nguyen The Bon, and director of the high-ranking Military Institute Senior Lieut. General Nguyen Huu An.

French ambassador to Vietnam Jean-Francois Nugarede and military attache Lt. Col Daniel Schaeffer were also present.

During the reception, General Doan Khue expressed his hope that the delegation's visit will contribute to the promotion of the mutual understanding and cooperation between the two countries.

General Francois Bresson, for his part, expressed his admiration at the achievements recorded by the Vietnamese people and armed forces in their national construction.

While in Vietnam the French military delegation was informed of Vietnam's polices on military, foreign and economics and investment affairs.

Cooperation Documents Signed With Bulgaria

BK0604153294 Hanoi VNA in English 1355 GMT 6 Apr 94

[Text] Hanoi VNA April 6—Documents on cooperation between Vietnam and Bulgaria were signed here this evening.

Signatories were Ngo The Dan deputy minister of agriculture and food industry, and head of the Vietnamese sub-commission and of the Vietnamese Government's economic delegation, and Rumen Khristov, head of the Bulgarian sub-commussion and of the Bulgarian Government's economic delegation. The documents include minutes of the 15th session of the Vietnam- Bulgaria Inter-Governmental Commission for Economic, Scientific and Technological Cooperation, a document on amendment of regulations on the organization of the commission, and, an agreement on veterinary hygiene between Vietnam and Bulgaria.

Vu Oanh Attends Mobilization Bloc Conference

Addresses Party Meeting

BK0704101994 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam Network in Vietnamese 2300 GMT 6 Apr 94

[Text] The party organization of the Central Bloc for Mass Mobilization Work held its midterm party conference recently. Comrade Vu Oanh, member of the Communist Party of Vietnam Central Committee Political Bureau attended and addressed the conference.

During the past period, party committees of the bloc have closely coordinated with the party, the Fatherland Front Committee, and mass organizations to study and firmly grasp the resolutions of the Seventh National Party Congress and resolution No 8b of the party Central Committee Political Bureau on mass mobilization work.

The conference discussed the program of action aimed at renovating the organization and activities of the bloc. The conference urged various mass organizations to formulate plans to integrate and motivate the people's strata to implement the socioeconomic task and protect the people's interests. The conference also discussed the tasks and orientations of the party organization of the bloc for the remaining two years of its current term.

Addressing the conference, Comrade Vu Oanh commended the bloc party organization for its effective staff role in helping the party Central Committee and Secretariat to improve the mass mobilization work to suit the new situation. Comrade Vu Oanh disseminated the main contents of the Midterm National Party Conference resolution, especially the party concept on mass mobilization work in the new situation. He clearly stressed the position and duty of party organization echelons in implementing the renovation process; accelerating economic growth; strengthening social development and justice; opposing corruption, smuggling, and social vices; and foiling the peaceful evolution.

Congress Resolution Presented

BK0604134694 Ho Chi Minh City SAIGON GIAI PHONG in Vietnamese 15 Mar 94 p 2

[First installment of the "basic content" of the Hanoi 20-25 January Mid-Term Party National Conference Resolution]

[Text] The political report of the party Central Committee presented at the Mid-Term Party National Conference reviews the implementation of the Seventh National Party Congress [SNPC] resolution and the practical steps of the renovation in our country. In order to successfully implement the SNPC resolution and the renovation, the political report reviews prominent achievements, weaknesses, and shortcomings; presents general conclusions on opportunities and dangers; provides guidance on the directions for national construction in the new developing period; outlines some major lines and measures; and further concretizes the socialist direction.

I. Achievements and Weaknesses, Opportunities and Dangers

1. The political report presents three prominent achievements:

—The great achievement of primary significance is the fact that we have succeeded in overcoming the socioeconomic crisis to a very important extent.

The following are its major manifestations:

Many stagnant and degrading fields have been overcome. The economic development rates have been fairly good and stable in the last three years. Inflation was limited to 5.2 percent in 1993. Economic relations have been broadened in a diversified and multilateral manner and annual export volume has increased about 20 percent.

The economy began to have some internal savings. The multisectoral economic structure has been forming. The market- oriented mechanism under the state management in the socialist direction has become an operational structure for the national economy.

The settlement of social issues and the implementation of social policies have been given more attention. People's lives in many cities and rural areas have been improved.

—The second important achievement is that political stability has been maintained and consolidated.

The party role has been strengthened. State management efficiency has been further upgraded. Democracy has broadened and it has scored significant developing steps in line with the construction of the law-governed state of the people, by the people, and for the people. National defense and security have been safeguarded. The people's confidence in the party, the state, and renovation has been increased. The public movements in the economic and social fields have obtained some developing steps.

—The third achievement is that foreign relations have been broadened and our national reputation and position were enhanced, thus creating favorable international conditions for national construction and protection.

All three aforementioned achievements are very important and inter-related. The mention of economic achievement first is reasonable and suitable to our renovation line, which places economic renovation first and considers it a central task. The great economic achievements contributed to overcome the socioeconomic crisis in a very important step, stabilized our politics, broadened our external relations, and safeguarded our national defense and security.

2. Shortcomings and newly arising problems:

— The economy still carries the characteristics of a backward agricultural economy with low productivity, quality, and efficiency. The industry is small with poor infrastructure. The ability to control inflation is not strong. The state-run economy and collective economy are slow in renovating and consolidating. And the market mechanism is in its preliminary stage and carrying many spontaneous elements.

— The fields of culture and society have recorded some achievements, but there are a lot of pressing problems which remain unsolved: unemployment, social injustice, education, culture, arts, health care, and corruption and smuggling.

— Political stability has been maintained, but complicated factors which must not be overlooked still exist. Many party and state organs have not been clean and strong. Some party members have become depraved politically and morally and loosened their vigilance and commitment in our chosen path. They remain unconcerned in the face of wrong viewpoints and sabotage activities by our enemies. Many party cadres and party members are still sluggish when it comes to self-education. They do not try to improve their character and understanding. Political stability is not totally stable, social order and safety are not safeguarded.

3. What are the opportunities and advantages?

The national conference unanimously agreed on fundamental advantages:

—Our party has a correct line. The party is united and unanimous. Our people are industrious, intelligent, and patriotic. They are bravery, resolute, and confident in the party leadership. Our armed forces are absolutely loyal to the people's revolutionary undertaking.

—The achievements of the renovation mainly shown in the three aforementioned achievements are creating new stature and strength for us.

—The development of the science technology revolution and the trend to broaden cooperation and development relations in the world and in the region are providing us with more important resources.

The current opportunities are from advantages, internal achievements, and external conditions but they are mainly created by our people. They do not come by themselves. We have to grasp opportunities to move the country forward.